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ARABIA—PART 4

CHAPTER I.—PERSIAN GULF SHAIKHDOMS

EA 1011/1

No. 1

ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL EVENTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF DURING 1949

Sir R. Hay to Mr. Bevin. (Received 15th February)

(No. 10) Bahrain,
Sir, 31st January, 1950.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a political review of events in the Persian Gulf during the year 1949.

2. I am sending copies of this despatch to Aden, Baghdad, Bierut, Basra, the British Middle East Office, the Air Officer Commanding Iraq, Jeddah, Tehran, the United Kingdom High Commissioners at New Delhi and Karachi, the Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf and the Political Agents, Bahrain, Kuwait and Muscat.

I have, &c.

W. R. HAY.

Enclosure in No. 1

General

The year has been a quiet one, the outstanding event being the abdication of Shaikh Abdullah of Qatar. The local situation has been unaffected by movements elsewhere in the Middle East and little has been heard of Palestine. In June proclamations were issued by the Rulers of all the Gulf States excluding Muscat and Kalba, claiming jurisdiction over the sea-bed adjoining their territorial waters. This has led to a certain amount of concession hunting, though rather less than was expected, and to claims that existing concessions automatically cover the portions of the sea-bed annexed by the Rulers from whom they are held. These claims have not been accepted by the Rulers and arbitration proceedings are pending. The Bahrain Petroleum Company's concession admittedly covers the sea-bed and the concession held by the Arabian American Oil Company from Ibn Saud has been extended to cover it. As a result, there

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has been a scramble by these two companies to stake their claims on the various shoals and islands lying between Bahrain and the mainland. A number of cases of abduction into slavery were reported on the Trucial Coast in the first half of the year. In April a launch belonging to the Shaikh of Dubai which was believed to have carried a cargo of female slaves to Al Khobar on the mainland was seized at Bahrain and since then very few cases have been reported. It has been decided to form a company to conduct the affairs of the Persian Gulf Lighting Service which is responsible for the maintenance of lights and buoys in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and is maintained by fees recovered from the shipping plying in these waters. The ordinary maintenance work is being carried on, but pending the formation of the company, many additions and improvements which are badly needed, have been held up for want of sanction.

Bahrain

Shaikh Salman has remained in good health throughout the year and continues to take a very active part in the administration of his territories. In May he celebrated the marriage of his son Isa. He has continued in season and out season to press his claims to Zubarah and at the end of the year showed signs of bringing unwarranted pressure to bear on Messrs. Petroleum Concessions Limited who operate the Qatar concession, but have their headquarters at Bahrain, to achieve his object. There has been no sign of any political agitation in Bahrain during the year and considerable progress has been made in local development. A domestic water supply has been provided in the capital Manamah and an automatic telephone exchange has been introduced. Imposing new Government

offices have been completed in Manamah including a new post office and a new police station, and a number of new commercial offices and private residences have been constructed. Unfortunately little progress has been made in education. The Shaikh still refuses to employ an English teacher and the school buildings are inadequate to cope with the demands for admission. Work was, however, begun on a large new hostel towards the end of the year. Sir Herbert Stewart, the Agricultural Expert in the British Middle East Office visited Bahrain in March and as a result of his advice the Bahrain Government have undertaken to employ a British Agricultural Adviser. It is hoped that the appointment will shortly be filled. The Shaikh has expressed his anxiety to take over the quarantine administration of the island and subject to the approval of His Majesty's Government it is hoped to hand this over to him towards the end of 1950. The Bahrain Petroleum Company have been vigorously searching for fresh oil deposits both below the existing one and in the shoals and islands round Bahrain, but so far without success. The royalty clause of their concession is due for revision in January 1950 and negotiations on this subject are in progress. The Bahrain Government are pressing that the royalty should be increased from Rs. 3/8 to Rs. 10/- a ton.

Kuwait

Shaikh Ahmad has remained in good health throughout the year. He paid a visit to Bahrain at the end of May and beginning of June and was royally entertained by Shaikh Salman. He refused to call on the Political Resident, claiming that as a visitor a first call should be paid on him either by the Political Resident or one of his officers. The matter was taken up with him by the Political Agent on his return to Kuwait and he subsequently apologised to the Political Resident in person. He has not yet agreed to appoint a British Financial Adviser, but has appointed a British Chief Medical Officer and Matron and has asked for the services of other British doctors. He has also appointed some British police officers, but only for dealing with persons subject to the jurisdiction of the Political Agent under the Kuwait Order in Council. A Financial and Commercial Secretary to the Political Resident is shortly to be appointed and it has been decided that he should make his headquarters in Kuwait in the hope that the

Shaikh may be willing to turn to him for advice on the disposal of his very large income from oil royalties. There has been considerable local development in Kuwait though the place has still a long way to go to catch up with Bahrain. New schools have been built, and in this respect Kuwait is, if anything, ahead of Bahrain. A large number of Egyptian teachers are employed, but it is the policy of the Kuwait Government to eliminate these as local material becomes available. A fine new hospital has been opened and a wide thoroughfare constructed between the customs pier and the main square in the town. The general administration however, especially on the financial side, is still conducted on very primitive lines. The Kuwait Oil Company have now completed most of their constructional work and a substantial reduction has been made in the number of their employees. Owing to the big drop in the price of oil they are not going ahead with production quite so fast as had been expected. Even so, the Shaikh's income from oil royalties during the year was expected to be in the neighbourhood of £3 million. The company's new pier at Mina al Ahmadi was opened to traffic in November and they have also completed a new power house and a small refinery. During the year Ibn Saud granted a concession for his share in the Neutral Zone to the Pacific (Western) Company of America and as a result of an agreement reached with that company, the American Independent Oil Company, who hold the concession for the Kuwait share of the zone, are now engaged in drilling four wells in it. This has raised the question of the administration of the Neutral Zone and the matter is under correspondence with the Saudi Arabian Government. No concessions have yet been granted for the sea-bed of Kuwait proper and of the Neutral Zone, but the Shaikh has given the American Independent Oil Company a concession for the islands of Kubbar, Qaru and Umm al Maradin, although the Kuwait Oil Company claim that these islands are already included in their concession. The matter is likely to be referred to arbitration.

Qatar

Shaikh Abdullah, who is over seventy and claims to be over eighty, felt very greatly the death in 1948 of his second son and heir apparent Hamad, who to a great extent carried on the administration on his behalf. Towards the end of July 1949, an

agitation was started by members of the Ruling Family for a share in the payments received by the Ruler from the oil companies holding concessions from them. Shaikh Abdullah thereupon announced his wish to abdicate in favour of his son Shaikh Ali. Before abdicating he signed a document whereby he agreed to bring into force the three articles of the 1916 Treaty which had been held in abeyance pending such agreement. The most important of them permits the appointment of a British Political Officer in Qatar. The abdication became effective on 20th August, and at a formal ceremony the Acting Political Resident recognised Ali as the new Ruler. Ali signed an undertaking to observe all the agreements entered into by his father and also a letter asking for the appointment of a British Adviser. Very soon after a British Political Officer was appointed to Qatar and the services of Mr. Cochrane were obtained from the Bahrain Government to organise a local police force. A suitable British Adviser had not been found by the end of the year. Up to date there has been no real administration in Qatar and it will take some time to introduce one. The new Shaikh is weak and very much under the influence of a family of merchants known as the Darwish and even when an Adviser arrives it may be difficult to induce the Ruler to give him adequate financial control. Messrs. Petroleum Development (Qatar) Limited made rapid progress during the year. A number of new wells were completed and their new terminal at Umm Sa'id was brought into operation, the first tanker calling there on 29th December. It is estimated that in 1950 the Ruler will receive royalties amounting to £450,000. At the beginning of August Shaikh Abdullah granted a concession for the Qatar sea-bed to the Central Mining Investment Corporation Limited and the Superior Oil Company of America. Messrs. Petroleum Development (Qatar) Limited have disputed his right to grant such a concession and the matter is being referred to arbitration.

Trucial Shaikhdoms

There have been no changes amongst the Rulers of the seven Shaikhdoms during the year, but Shaikh Sultan bin Saqr of Sharjah has been seriously ill in Bombay since March and it is doubtful if he will recover. Meanwhile, his brother Muhammad is carrying on in his place, though he has not been officially appointed as Regent. The

Regent of Kalba, Khalid bin Ahmad is now very senile and the question of granting full powers to the lawful Shaikh, Hamad, is under consideration. He is now nineteen, but is not a strong character and it is doubtful if he will prove a good ruler. Generally speaking, peace has prevailed throughout the Shaikhdoms, though Shaikh Saqr bin Muhammad of Ras al Khaimah had had some trouble with his neighbours. The ex-Shaikh, Sultan bin Salim, who shot his way out of the Sharjah Agency in July 1948, paid the fine demanded from him in April and is now living in exile in Muscat territory for a period of one year which expires in April 1950. The outstanding event of the year was an incursion by a party from the Arabian American Oil Company accompanied by Saudi officials and guards into what is regarded as undoubtedly Abu Dhabi territory. The Political Officer, Mr. Stobart, who went to the spot was detained for a time and his escort disarmed. He was subsequently released and the arms returned, and the incident has led to negotiations with the Saudi Arabian Government for the settlement of the boundary. Messrs. Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast) Limited have started drilling operations at Ras Sadr in Abu Dhabi territory and have established a small port a few miles away at Khor-Ghanadhah. The Central Mining Investment Corporation and the Superior Oil Company of America started negotiations with the Ruler of Abu Dhabi for a concession for his sea-bed, but his demands are so exorbitant that they broke through. At the end of the year the Ruler of Dubai agreed to grant a concession for his sea-bed to the same combination of companies. Early in the year Messrs. Petroleum Concessions Limited negotiated with the tribes south of Buraimi for permission to explore their territory, but the negotiations were broken off owing to the refusal of the tribes to recognise in any way the authority of the Sultan of Muscat.

Muscat

The Sultan has remained in good health throughout the year. He paid a short visit to Dhofar in the spring to superintend the repairs to the damage done by the great storm of October 1948, and in October went to Bombay for two months to see his father and obtain medical advice. During the course of his stay there he paid short official visits to New Delhi and Karachi. At the beginning of the year Mr. Woods-Ballard,

late of the Indian Political Service, took over as the Sultan's Minister of Foreign Affairs and his advice and assistance are sought in many other departments of the Government. Muscat is still politically and economically stagnant though negotiations are about to be started with a company for the development of its fisheries. The interior remained quiet and many of its inhabitants have migrated to other parts of the Gulf in search of employment. The Imam, though reported from time to time on his deathbed shows no real signs of dying. Messrs. Petroleum Concessions Limited, to the great annoyance of the Sultan, have not yet made up their minds to abandoning their Dhofar concession. Unfortunately, there appears to be no prospects of finding oil in the areas where the Sultan's writ runs and there are very great difficulties in the way of undertaking exploratory work in other parts of his dominions. The possibility, however, of arranging for exploration in the Huqf area on the mainland opposite Masirah Island is under discussion with the Sultan. The existing Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the Sultan of Muscat on the one hand and His Majesty's Government and the Government of India on the other is due to expire in February 1951, if any of the parties gives notice in February 1950 of a wish not to renew it. The Sultan has announced his intention of giving such notice and it will, therefore, be necessary to negotiate a new treaty during 1950.

Foreign Relations

Generally speaking relations between the Gulf States and their neighbours are very friendly in spite of the Persian claim to Bahrain and disputes over land and sea boundaries and the ownership of islands. The boundary which is causing most trouble is that between Saudi Arabia on the one hand and Qatar, the Trucial Shaikhdoms and Muscat on the other. The activities of the Arabian American Oil Company, to which reference has already been made, have made it necessary to determine this boundary and negotiations are pending in Jeddah. As was to be expected the Saudi Arabian Government are making impossible demands and no early settlement is likely. The Kuwait—Iraq boundary is under discussion with the Shaikh of Kuwait as a preliminary to taking the matter up with the Iraq Government and negotiations are likely to be undertaken at an early date for the determination of the boundary between

Kuwait proper and the Kuwait—Saudi Arabian Neutral Zone. Claim jumping by both the Bahrain Petroleum Company and the Arabian American Oil Company has made it necessary to press for the early definition of the sea-bed boundary between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Farsi Island situated in the middle of the Gulf is claimed by Kuwait, Persia and Saudi Arabia and all three States have at different times erected notices on it claiming it as their property. The Persians also put up a flag-staff on Lesser Tanb Island, which was shortly afterwards removed by the Royal Navy and the latest development is the erection of markers by Ibn Saud on some sand-banks which have long been claimed by Bahrain. Relations with India and Pakistan have been satisfactory. The refusal of the Pakistan Government to devalue their rupee has led to the cessation of practically all legitimate trade between the Gulf States and Pakistan, and has forced the oil companies to increase the pay of their Pakistani employees. The report of the Indian Goodwill Mission which visited Bahrain and Kuwait at the end of 1948 was received in November of 1949. On the whole it dealt with the real or alleged grievances of the Indian employees of the oil companies in a reasonable manner. A representative of the Pakistan State Bank visited Bahrain and Kuwait in August to enquire into the position of the Pakistani rupee in the Gulf States. Nothing has been heard of the results of his enquiries which were presumably rendered nugatory by subsequent currency developments. The question of Indian and Pakistani representation in the Gulf States has been under discussions during the year. No difficulty has arisen in Kuwait but the Shaikh of Bahrain is most reluctant to agree to such representation without a specific assurance from His Majesty's Government that they will continue to be responsible for his political relations with the two countries, and the Sultan of Muscat denies their right to any representation in his State pending the negotiation of new treaties. The Pakistan Government have been pressing the Sultan through His Majesty's Government to sell Gwadar to them, but he is unwilling to surrender his sovereign rights there. Relations with the Americans have been cordial and there has been no attempt to challenge our position in the Gulf Shaikhdoms. Mr. Hart, who was the United States Consul at Dhahran from 1944 to 1946 has been re-appointed there with the status of Consul-General and has been most friendly and co-operative.

There have been no more visits by large aircraft carriers but one United States ship is more or less perennially in Gulf waters as the Flagship of the United States Commander Middle East Force, an appointment which has been created as a counterpart to

that of the Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf. The State Department are pressing for the appointment of a United States Consul at Kuwait and the matter is under consideration.

31st January, 1950.

EA 1055/14

No. 2

RECOGNITION OF SHAIKH ABDULLAH AS RULER OF KUWAIT

Sir R. Hay to Mr. Bevin. (Received 15th March)

(No. 23. Confidential) *Bahrain,*
Sir, *11th March, 1950.*

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the letter I addressed to His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Salim as-Subah, C.I.E., conveying to him His Majesty's Government's recognition of him as Ruler of Kuwait together with a translation of the reply received from him and its covering despatch from the Political Agent. This correspondence in itself calls for no particular comment except that I would draw attention to the fact that Shaikh Abdullah both in this letter and in the letter which he wrote to the Political Agent announcing his accession has referred to the friendship which existed between his grandfather, Shaikh Mubarak, and the British Government, and has omitted all mention of his uncle, Jabir, his father Salim, who was a most unsatisfactory ruler from our point of view, and his immediate predecessor Ahmad. He and Ahmad disliked each other intensely and he did not perhaps regard Ahmad as a good ruler and a friend of His Majesty's Government.

2. I must say I never liked and trusted Ahmad myself and I think this feeling was shared by many of the Political Officers who had to deal with him. His character was a curious mixture. He was firm in manner, but often weak in action especially in dealing with his relations and it will be remembered he was nearly unseated by Abdullah Salim in 1938. Although simple in his dress and tastes he was, at any rate in his later years, intensely conceited and this trait combined with his miserliness did not endear him to the bulk of his people nor to many members of his family. He had, however, a charm of manner and a jocularly which brought many under his spell especially Europeans and Americans who were not very closely acquainted with him. I always found him refreshing to talk

to, but was never comfortable with him as I always doubted his sincerity and felt that if I tried to argue with him he would always get the better of me. In his long reign he had dealt with so many Political Officers, company promoters and others that he had become a good judge of character and knew exactly how to handle everybody. He was an adept at flattery though he sometimes overdid this. He was always full of protestations of his loyalty to His Majesty's Government and to give him his due he was scrupulous in the observance of his engagements and stood by us firmly in the blackest days of the war. He often expressed dislike of the Americans and their ways, but I have some times wondered what he said to them about us. His conceit led him at times to be difficult in matters of protocol and his failure to call on me during his visit to Bahrain in 1949 was not the only incident of this kind that occurred. Towards the end of his life he hankered after the trappings of royalty and crowns began to appear on his launches and note paper. He also, it is believed, aspired to the title "Majesty" and a royal salute. He was not deeply religious and was probably much more broadminded than most of his subjects and I think but for opposition from other members of his family and public sentiment, would have gone much further in developing the administration of his State and encouraging a more Western outlook on life. It is an achievement that he ruled his State on the whole very successfully and without coming into conflict with His Majesty's Government in any serious matter for twenty-nine years. He was neither great nor particularly good, but possessed astuteness and ability combined with much charm of manner.

3. His successor Abdullah is of a very different type. During Ahmad's long reign he has been the leader of the Opposition

though for the last twelve years as a compromise he has handled the State's financial affairs. He is fat and unprepossessing in appearance and is difficult to understand as not only has he some kind of impediment in his speech but he prides himself on his literary knowledge and uses high-flown Arabic. He is, however, sincere and steady and unlikely to have his head turned by flattery and wealth. He is conservative and old-fashioned and in spite of his less pleasing exterior is more popular with his own family and the general public than Ahmad. It is a tribute to his character that many years of repression and waiting for his turn to succeed have not soured him. So far as the future is concerned, I think on the whole we shall find him a more satisfactory ruler than his predecessor. He is likely to prove much easier to deal with and is, I think, genuinely anxious for His Majesty's Government's friendship and support. He has made a good start by paying off all the debts owed by the ruling family and has already ordered a distillation plant which is essential to secure Kuwait's supply of drinking water. I feel, however, that he will move slowly and will do his best to carry his people with him in any reforms he may introduce. He will be less autocratic than his predecessor, but whether he will develop any democratic institutions remains to be seen. Ahmad when he succeeded in 1921 promised to rule with the assistance of a Majlis or Assembly, which in fact rarely met and never functioned. It is most unlikely that he will encourage or welcome any innovations on Western lines and it is reported that he has already forbidden the members of his family to attend the horse races which are arranged from time to time by the Kuwait Oil Company. There is, I think, good reasons to hope that he will steadily improve the general administration of the State and that he will spend its enormous income wisely, but whether he will employ British experts to assist him in this will depend on the extent to which he will be able to persuade not only himself, but other members of his family and the public that this is desirable. He is between 55 and 60 years of age and suffers from stone in the kidney. His reign is unlikely to be a long one and the succession will probably go to his uncle, Shaikh Abdullah Mubarak, who is still a comparatively young man without the ability of Ahmad or the stability of Abdullah Salim.

I have, &c.

W. R. HAY.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2

*Sir R. Hay to His Highness Shaikh Abdullah
Bahrain,
16th February, 1950.*

After compliments,

I have the honour to state that I have been authorised by His Majesty's Government to convey to your Highness their recognition of you as Ruler of Kuwait in succession to the late Shaikh Sir Ahmad al Jabir As-Subah, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., on the understanding that you will observe all treaties and engagements with the British Government which have been entered into by your predecessors. I take this opportunity of offering to your Highness my warmest congratulations on your accession and of wishing you a long and prosperous rule. I have every confidence that under your Highness's wise administration Kuwait will continue to progress and develop and that the old ties of friendship with His Majesty's Government will be maintained and strengthened.

I have, &c.

W. R. HAY,
Political Resident,
Persian Gulf.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2

Mr. Jakins to Sir R. Hay

(No. 6) *Kuwait,
Sir, 26th February, 1950.*

With reference to my telegram No. 91 of 25th February I have the honour to forward herewith, in original, a letter addressed to your Excellency by the Ruler of Kuwait acknowledging the letter you sent to him conveying the official recognition of him as Ruler by His Majesty's Government. In this letter Shaikh Abdullah Salim undertakes to observe all the treaties and agreements of his predecessors.

2. I regret the delay in obtaining the undertaking but although I explained the procedure beforehand it was not until he had written three letters that an explicit undertaking was given. This was not through any desire on the Shaikh's part to equivocate but through lack of experience in using precise terms. I could, of course, have settled the exact terms of his reply before handing him the letter of recognition but I judged it undesirable to adopt that course.

3. In handing the letter to me the Ruler renewed his oral assurances of reliance on His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

H. G. JAKINS.

Enclosure 3 in No. 2

*His Highness Shaikh Abdullah to Sir R. Hay
Kuwait,
3rd Jumadi al Ula, 1369.
(21st February, 1950.)*

(Translation)

After compliments,

With a hand of pleasure and satisfaction we took your letter No. 170/127/50 of 16th February, 1950 (29 Rabi' ath Thani

I have, &c.

ABDULLAH SALIM,
Ruler of Kuwait.

1369) conveying the official recognition of His Majesty's Government of our taking over the reins of the Amirate as Ruler of Kuwait. I am indeed grateful for the eagerness of His Majesty's Government that good relations should continue and we assure them that we will observe all the treaties and agreements that our predecessors entered into and we shall go in the same way that our late grandfather went wishing for the continuance of mutual friendly relations between us and His Majesty's Government on a basis of preserving what strengthens those relations in the exchange of friendship.

EA 10110/2

No. 3

**SOCIAL AND POLITICAL EFFECTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE OIL INDUSTRY IN THE PERSIAN GULF**

Sir R. Hay to Mr. Bevin. (Received 3rd May)

(No. 34. Confidential) *Bahrain,
Sir, 24th April, 1950.*

I propose in this despatch to endeavour to analyse the effect which the discovery and exploitation of oil in Bahrain has had, and is likely to have, on the people of the islands, especially from the political angle. This is a matter which I have been considering for some time and I have reached the conclusion that while the oil operations have greatly increased the material prosperity of the islands and possibly indeed because of this the effect they have had on the minds of the people is astonishingly small. In fact any slight political stirrings there may have been are to be attributed to the wireless and Egyptian newspapers rather than to the oil operations.

2. It must be remembered that Bahrain is a port which has become a city State and that there is nothing which can be called a "nation." There are three main elements—

- (1) the Sunni ruling family,
- (2) the merchants of various races, languages and religions, and
- (3) the Shiah cultivators of the gardens who are more or less serfs.

All three are extremely prosperous. The Shaikhs are drawing large incomes from

the oil royalties, trade of all kinds flourishes and the Shiah cultivators provide the bulk of the well-paid labour which the oil company employs. A fourth element should perhaps be mentioned, viz., the pearl-divers who are mostly miscellaneous Arab tribesmen and ex-slaves. But for the advent of oil they would be in a parlous plight, as the Japanese cultured pearl dealt a heavy blow to their industry before the war, and the war and the conditions which followed it removed all hopes of its revival. The industry lingers on, but fewer boats go out each year and the divers are reconciled to finding a steadier and less risky employment with the oil company.

3. Although the development of the oil industry has undoubtedly raised the standard of living of the people it has not produced a demand for the higher forms of education. The primary schools are crowded and many boys have to be turned away, and the recent census has shown that about 10 per cent. of the population are now literate—a high proportion for the Middle East. As soon, however, as the boys can read and write a little English they leave school to seek employment with the oil companies or to join their fathers' businesses in the towns. As a result the higher classes in the secondary school contain very few

boys, and there is no demand for university education. There are no lawyers, no "effendis" and no "black-coated unemployed." Subversive Arabic broadcasts are listened to and newspapers read with a certain amount of interest, but everybody is too busy to pay much attention to them, and there is no national feeling to be fanned. The Shaikh is, on the whole, a good ruler and takes a deep interest in the welfare of his State. I would not say he is very popular, but he is certainly not unpopular, and he is perhaps regarded as a symbol of the country's independence. The only alternatives are direct British rule or annexation by Ibn Saud or Persia, and there are few who would favour any of these. The British connexion is not resented except by a very few as though we may not be loved all realise that we have brought them scathless through two wars, and that the peace and prosperity which they enjoy is due almost entirely to us.

4. The long and the short of it is that there is full employment, everybody has enough to eat and there is, therefore, little political discontent, and unless the Bahrain Petroleum Company has to go out of business because it cannot market its oil or the character of the ruler deteriorates, I can see no reason apart from another war or other major catastrophe why this state of affairs should not continue for a number of years to come. Even if education in its higher forms does spread it will be a long time before the oil company, whose policy it is to replace its Indian and Pakistani clerical employees with Bahrainis, can absorb the number of matriculates or graduates which the islands with their small population can produce. This will be even more the case if in due course they find it politic to give Bahrainis a bigger share in their enterprise and associate them in their management.

5. In the preceding paragraphs I have dealt only with Bahrain but most of what I have said applies to Kuwait, and in a lesser degree to Qatar. Kuwait is politically slightly more advanced than Bahrain, but there is no sign that oil development has in any way weakened the position of the ruling family or led to a demand for a less autocratic form of Government. There development has been very rapid during the last four years, and there was a recent and rather sudden reduction in the Kuwait Oil Company's activities. This may affect some of the merchants but is not likely to produce distress amongst the people as a whole and

will not, I think, have any serious political consequences. In Qatar the production of oil has only just started and it is too early yet to say what effect the industry will have upon the sparse and very primitive population. Up to date it appears only to have encouraged their pilfering instincts. A start even has not yet been made with education, and it is likely to be a very long time before any kind of political consciousness develops amongst them. Dynastic upheavals inspired by greed for the oil revenues are possible.

6. I have dealt so far with the political effects of oil development in the Persian Gulf. I should perhaps say also something about its moral and social effects as it is sometimes argued that the oil companies with the Western influences they introduce are bringing out the demoralisation and degradation of the "noble Arab." In my opinion this is all nonsense, at any rate so far as Bahrain and the other Gulf States are concerned. Sexual immorality has always flourished in these parts and the coming of the oil companies has made no difference to its proportions. Drink and dope are perhaps more easily obtainable than they used to be but I suspect that even in the old days the majority of the people partook of them whenever an opportunity arose. Western influences are beginning to have their effect on manners and dress and are making the Muhammadans more tolerant of other faiths, but the Gulf States are still far less westernised than most other Middle East countries, and progress in this direction is remarkably slow, especially as it is not encouraged by the Rulers. The veil is still rigorously observed by all Arab ladies, though I have heard the opinion expressed in Bahrain that it will not be long before they begin to discard it. Generally speaking I think it can be said that contact with the oil companies of itself has had very little effect upon the morals and social customs of the people which have been influenced far more by the example of other Middle Eastern countries such as Egypt, Iraq and the Lebanon. This is perhaps all the more so because the companies have located their European and American employees in camps at a distance from the towns and generally speaking discouraged them from intercourse with the local inhabitants. Further, in Bahrain local employees do not live in or near the company's camp but are transported to their

homes when their day's work is done. I have heard it said that while the Bahrainis have not been corrupted by the local oil company the character of the bedouin employed by Arabian American Oil Company in Saudi Arabia has changed for the worse. I cannot confirm this from personal experience but the nomad of the desert is more likely to deteriorate under the conditions which the

oil industry generates than the settled Arab of the coastal towns.

7. I am sending copies of this despatch to the British Middle East Office, Jeddah and the Kuwait and Bahrain Political Agencies.

I have, &c.

W. R. HAY.

W. R. HAY

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APPENDIX

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

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No. 4

LEADING PERSONALITIES IN THE PERSIAN GULF

Sir R. Hay to Mr. Bevin. (Received 19th July)(Unnumbered)
Sir,*Bahrain,*
14th July, 1950.

I have the honour to forward herewith a list of leading personalities in the Persian Gulf.

I have, &c.
W. R. HAY.

Enclosure in No. 4

Leading Personalities in the Persian Gulf, 1950

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Bahrain

1. Abdul Aziz al Gosaibi, Khan Bahadur
Born in 1877. The eldest of four brothers, two of whom are one-eyed like Abdul Aziz himself so that they have only five eyes between them. They are Nejdīs of plebeian origin and are said to have

started life as coffee-shop boys, and their name suggests that one of their forebears was a butcher. During the first Great War, they acted as Ibn Saud's agents in Bahrain and from this activity made their fortune. They also traded in pearls and invested much of their money in property in Bahrain, Hasa and Katif, where they are big landowners. Until 1941 they were in partnership, but in that year, after bitter quarrels, they separated, and each is now independent of the others. Abdul Aziz is a pleasant, intelligent little man, never physically strong. When excited he is apt to get rather hysterical. He was one of the chief supporters of Major Daly's diving reforms and has been of great help to the Government on many occasions. He is not Ibn Saud's official agent, of course, but he often acts most usefully as if he were. He was made a Khan Bahadur in 1921.

2. Abdullah bin Hamad, Shaikh

Brother of His Highness the Shaikh of Bahrain. Born in 1911. Very short-sighted and wears thick glasses. Abdullah is very ambitious and undoubtedly had hopes of succeeding his father. He has always been keen on learning and is the only one of the brothers who speaks some English. He is sensible, though rather slow-witted, careful over money and fairly progressive in some directions. For several years he was a magistrate on the Bahrain Court, but he retired from it twice in a huff because his father refused him something he wanted. He walked out a third time and then to his disgust his father appointed Shaikh Daij in his place. When Abdullah wished to return he was not reappointed.

Abdullah and Daij accompanied Shaikh Hamad to England and the next year Abdullah spent six months living with a tutor in Oxford learning English. When he came back he was full of Western ideas, but little of this has survived except the furniture and European sanitation in his house. Shaikh Salman appointed him President of the Muharraq Municipality, a post which Shaikh Salman had himself held before he succeeded. Besides his one trip to Europe, Abdullah has travelled several times in India. He is more conversant with European ways than any of his brothers. Physically he is not very strong.

3. Abdullah bin Isa al Khalifah, Shaikh

Second brother of the late Shaikh Hamad and uncle of the present Shaikh of Bahrain. Born about 1883. Shaikh Abdullah is the cleverest, wickedest, most entertaining and most powerful member of the Khalifah family. His education is very slight. He can read but can scarcely write, and often laments the lack of educational facilities in his younger days. He is very intelligent, with a sharp sense of humour; he has tact, political ability and an even temper, though he can be fierce when really roused. He is a skilful negotiator and arbitrator.

Shaikh Abdullah has travelled in India and the Near East and has visited England twice, once in 1919 and again in 1923 with Shaikh Hamad, who took him because he was afraid to leave him on his own in Bahrain.

Shaikh Abdullah was his father's favourite and the son of Shaikh Isa's last wife, a powerful old lady who is still alive. Although his elder brother Shaikh Hamad had been appointed heir apparent, Shaikh Abdullah was for many years the most powerful man in Bahrain. His mother bitterly resented her son's not having been heir apparent. Shaikh Abdullah is always in debt, but cheerfully so, and is not mean. Most of his money is spent on sexual pleasures, for which he is notorious throughout the Gulf. His tastes are catholic and he does not trouble to hide his affairs. He has had countless wives and male and female attachments. He is feared and disliked by the

Shia Baharna on account of the wild doings of his earlier life. His servants used to carry off Baharna women for their master. Respectable Arabs dislike and mistrust him. He is very popular with a section of the younger Shaikhs, who prefer him to Shaikh Salman.

Outwardly Shaikh Abdullah had always supported the Government of his brother, late Shaikh Hamad, and has professed to be pro-British because Bahrain must be dependent, though he would himself prefer the country to be entirely independent. Whenever there has been political trouble, there have been rumours that Shaikh Abdullah was behind it, but this has never been really proved.

Shaikh Abdullah is more energetic than most of the younger members of the family. He used to be a good horseman and is fond of hawking and shooting. He is careful about his health, and in spite of his unrestrained lasciviousness he is rarely ill.

Shaikh Abdullah is the Chairman of Manamah Municipal Council and attends the Bahrain Appellate Court as a Judge. He is by far the most important politically of the Ruling Family.

4. Abdur Rahman al Gosaibi

Brother of Abdul Aziz (Bahrain, No. 1). Born in 1892. Formerly Victor Rosenthal's pearl-broker. An intelligent and sophisticated man. Has travelled much in the East and in Europe. He dresses in European style and stays in the Savoy Hotel when in London. He often has big schemes which do not come off, but this is not the case of the large cinema which he has just opened in Manamah. In intelligence and outlook he is far in advance of the ordinary Bahrain merchant and is able to take an objective view of his own people and the "Arab Cause," at least when talking to a non-Arab. He is a good and amusing talker.

5. Belgrave, Mr. C. Dalrymple

(See *Who's Who*.) Born in 1894. Adviser to the Bahrain Government. Married, with wife and son in Bahrain. Looks younger than his age. Has served the Bahrain Government since 1926. Has the confidence of the Shaikh and the senior members of the Ruling Family—so far as any Arab gives confidence particularly to a Christian. Though conservative in outlook and suspicious of innovation, Mr. Belgrave has to his credit a series of performances and considerable progress in the Bahrain administration during his long reign. His amiability of character and considerable charm of manner tend to conceal his almost oriental ability to avoid persuasion into any line of action of which he does not approve. His occasionally indefinite and halting manner is not an indication of lack of clarity of mind, but his method of saying "No" when he might feel it awkward to be definite about it.

These characteristics are, however, only incidental to the enthusiasm, energy and ability with which Mr. Belgrave has conducted the affairs of Bahrain for so many years and which have resulted in the island's administration becoming a model for the Middle East. In Bahrain the large sums spent on efficient public services, the fair allocation of the oil revenues amongst the ruling family, the comparatively efficient and honest Civil Service and Police Force, the sound budgeting and the general air of order and contentment—by marked contrast with other Middle Eastern countries—may all be attributed in very large measure to the efforts of Mr. Belgrave.

6. Brown, Mr. Russell

General Manager and Chief Local Representative of the Bahrain Petroleum Company. Has been in Bahrain employed by the Oil Company for over 10 years. Is a "refinery man" and was Refinery

Manager before he became General Manager. His father is a newspaper proprietor and was the Governor of the State of Michigan. He broke away from the family business and, in the recurrent American tradition, did odd jobs—including playing a saxophone in a jazz band—while attending night classes to prepare himself for work in the oil business. He was first hired by Mr. Max Thornburgh (Bahrain, No. 15) and worked some years in Texas, New Mexico and Venezuela in companies of the Standard Oil group. Although an oil man through and through, Mr. Brown, as well as an engaging personality, has wider interests in things and people and though he never forgets his main business in life he is able to appreciate the view outside it. He has the usual American prejudices against the British, but his long experience of working with them gives him a balanced view and he is co-operative. He is married and has a son and a daughter. He and his family are generally popular.

7. Daij bin Hamad, Shaikh

Brother of the Shaikh of Bahrain. Born in 1915. An enormously fat, amiable and good-natured young man, who was his father's favourite son. He is practically illiterate, but quite intelligent. He accompanied his father on both his visits to England. He acquired a good deal of money and property from his father, for which reason most of his brothers dislike him. He is mentally energetic though physically slothful, and is much addicted to women. He is sometimes generous. He sits in the Joint Court with the Assistant Political Agent. At times when the local situation becomes difficult, such as when attacks on the Jews threatened, has showed a remarkable resolution in taking security precautions, and it was he who kept on urging his brother, the Ruler, to deal with matters firmly.

8. Hussain bin Ali Yatim

Born in 1914. Ali Yatim was a small trader at Bahrain of Sunni Persian origin. For many years he was on very good terms with the American Mission. He was educated and had travelled abroad. Hussain Yatim, his son, when quite a little boy, was taken up by Major Holmes, a concession hunter through whom the Bahrain Oil Concession was arranged, and, after some years at the Mission School, was sent to England to be educated. He was at Brighton Grammar School for about three years, spending his holidays usually at Major Holmes's house in Essex. He did well at school. When he was in England he met and visited the houses of a number of people. When he returned to Bahrain he was employed by Major Holmes as interpreter and Arab Secretary. He had inherited some money, house property and gardens from his father. In addition to working for Major Holmes, he had various commercial interests, including a chemist's shop, agency for wireless sets, cameras, &c. He experimented in growing tobacco and oranges, in breeding cattle, and in various other lines.

After working for Major Holmes he was employed by the Bahrain Petroleum Company as interpreter and in various other jobs. Meanwhile he developed his own business, importing goods from America, starting an ice manufactory and a petrol-filling station for the Oil Company. More recently he has started a water distilling plant and has begun a trade in motor launches. He went to England again some years after he had left school, and to America with Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa.

Hussain Yatim married the daughter of Yusuf Lutfally Khunji, who was at one time a wealthy piece-goods merchant in Manchester with a house in Chelsea and another at St. Anne's-on-Sea. The girl was brought up in England, studying medical work. Her father eventually lost most of

his money and returned to Persia. Hussain and his wife live in European style.

Hussain Yatim is the only young man in Bahrain who was educated in England. It is difficult to say whether the experiment has been a success. Naturally, from the point of view of commerce his education, his experience in England, his knowledge of European people, their ways and their business methods, have been of great use; but these things have given him a feeling of superiority over his fellow countrymen and of dissatisfaction with social conditions. Hussain Yatim is a clever, versatile young man, but not very stable. He is continually launching experiments of which he tires before there has been time to judge the results.

9. Khalifah bin Mohammad, Shaikh

Son of Shaikh Mohammad bin Isa Al Khalifah (Bahrain, No. 11). Born about 1913. Superintendent of the Bahrain Police, educated at Beirut and the Nasik Police School. He speaks English well and associates with Europeans more than any member of the family. He is fairly intelligent, enterprising and ambitious, and is on bad terms with a good many of the younger Al Khalifah, who are very jealous of him. He is not as fast as most of his young cousins, but he is putting on weight rapidly, which makes him less and less energetic. He is inclined to regard his services, for which he is well paid, as the conferring of a very great favour on the State. He has good manners, lives in semi-European style, is pleasant to deal with and has a sense of humour. He is interested in modern inventions such as cars, speed-boats, wireless and cameras. He is extravagant and in debt, but he does not use his official position to his own advantage. He is not popular with the general public, who regard him as ostentatious and arrogant. In 1948 he visited the United Kingdom as a guest of the British Council.

10. Lermite, Mr. Basil H., M.B.E.

Born in 1901. Has worked for Petroleum Concessions, Limited, in the Persian Gulf for about 12 years. He is regarded, with considerable justification, as an authority on the concession areas held by his company including the difficult ones in Oman and Muscat. He was indeed once described as "the silent repository of unrivalled knowledge of Qatar and the Trucial Coast Shaikhdoms." This is going too far. Silent Mr. Lermite certainly is, particularly on official occasions and when transacting business. His knowledge of the Trucial Coast is not, however, "unrivalled" and has certainly no profundity about it. He is in fact an efficient oil company liaison officer for work amongst the more barbarous Arabs and has done his company exceedingly well for many years. He himself would be the first to admit that he has not got the qualities, particularly the linguistic qualifications, attributed to him in Raymond O'Shea's romantic and inaccurate book "Sand Kings of Oman." He knows very little Arabic and conducts all his work through and relies for most of his information on interpreters. By origin he may be from the Levant.

His outlook is limited to his work and despite long years of dealing with the semi-independent Shaikhs and with the political authorities, he seems unable to appreciate the political implications of the activities of his company and that they should be integrated with Government policy. The result is that he is inclined to let these activities develop for months on independent lines and, when they are interrupted by difficulties with local people, to demand that His Majesty's Government should interfere and, as it were with the wave of a magic wand, dissipate difficulties which would never have arisen if they had been consulted in the first place.

It is said of him that, like others who have been in posts for a long time, he keeps too many of the reins of office in his own hands. He took over as Persian Gulf Manager of Petroleum Concessions, Limited, in July 1947 and was given a well-earned M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours 1948.

11. Mohammad bin Isa al Khalifah, Shaikh

Eldest surviving son of Shaikh Isa and uncle of the present Shaikh of Bahrain. Born about 1881. His mother, who is still alive, but mental, was of the Bin Ali family. In appearance Shaikh Mohammad is thin and upright. He has a grey beard, sometimes dyed black, and long hair in the Bedouin style which is usually hidden under a head-dress. He is very short-sighted, and nearly blind without his glasses. His dazzling smile reveals a complete set, top and bottom, of gold teeth.

Shaikh Mohammad's manner is rather stiff. He is the most travelled of all the family, and has visited most parts of the world. He is fairly well educated, something of a poet, and excessively proud of what he considers his superior ability in drafting important letters, proclamations, &c. He is politically-minded, autocratic, and intensely proud of his family's achievements. He is not anti-English, but is critical of many things the English do and does not hesitate to voice his opinions. He is intolerant of Shias and actively dislikes the Baharna. He is extremely mean and always complaining of his debts. He is generous, however, to his own large family, which used to be better disciplined than others of the Khalifah. He is more moral than his relations and confines himself to women. He has had a good many wives.

Shaikh Mohammad is fussy, inclined to suspect that he is being slighted, and too fond of letting his personal interests influence his opinions on public matters. He is open to argument, but has a quick temper. He was very loyal to the late Shaikh Hamad, though the latter was usually bored by him and could not appreciate his liking for foreign travel. Shaikh Mohammad "enjoys" ill-health, which is partly genuine and partly assumed. Before going on his travels, which used to be an annual event, he invariably developed medical reasons necessitating a change of air.

Shaikh Mohammad fills no public office and is not relied upon by the Ruler in the same way as his brother, Shaikh Abdullah bin Isa.

12. Salman, His Highness Shaikh

The present Ruler of Bahrain. Born about 1894, eldest son of the late Ruler, Shaikh Hamad bin Isa. Has some education and a slight knowledge of the geography and history of the neighbouring countries. Has visited India and Egypt, but has never been in Europe. Appointed successor by his father in a secret document in 1940 and elected Ruler by his immediate relations when his father died in January 1942.

In disposition, cautious, careful over money, in some directions progressive but in other ways old-fashioned. His private life is outwardly respectable and he holds the view that people's behaviour in the privacy of their houses is no concern of anybody. He has never been in debt, even before he inherited his father's wealth. His generosity towards his relatives is considered with a view to keeping them in subservience. He is considerably older than his seven brothers, none of whom is particularly fond of him.

Shaikh Salman has at present two wives, the senior one from the Khalid branch of the family. Her father and other relations were involved in murderous attacks on Baharna villages about 20 years ago and were later suspected of complicity in the attempt to assassinate Shaikh Salman's father. Some of this family were exiled for several years. The senior wife, though childless, has a certain amount of influence

over Shaikh Salman and she is not friendly towards the British. The second wife, mother of three sons and a daughter, is of the family of Khalifah bin Hamad of Jesra, politically a nonentity.

No mention of the Shaikh of Bahrain or even of the Al Khalifah family would be complete without reference to the Zubarah dispute with the Shaikh of Qatar. This wretched quarrel has been handed on to the Shaikh by his father, who felt equally strongly about it; and indeed it is tempting to suppose that the certainty that it would be carried on by Salman was a factor in his appointment as the Ruler. It colours and indeed often embitters all his relations with His Majesty's Government, which he blames at times for withholding his "rights" from him.

13. Smith, Mr. G. W. R.

Born in 1904. Director of Customs, Bahrain Government. Previously an employee in the shipping firm of Gray Mackenzie and Company. Mr. Smith was taken into employment by the Bahrain Government in 1943. He is a Scot and probably merits the usual adjective "shrewd." In any case he runs the most money-making department (*i.e.*, the Customs) of the Bahrain Government and the most vital service—food supplies—with a minimum of fuss and a quiet competence. His judgment of local affairs as well as his work is limited, but sensible as far as it goes. He is well thought of by the Shaikh and likely to retain his post as long as he wants to—which will probably be to the end of his working life in the East. Will never set Manamah harbour on fire, but on the other hand could always be entrusted to put out any minor conflagration. Takes himself too seriously.

14. Storm, Dr. W. H.

Dr. Storm has been working in the American Mission of the Dutch Reformed Church, whose headquarters in the Gulf are at Bahrain, for the last 20 years or so. For the last seven years he has been in Bahrain itself, and before that was stationed at Muscat and Kuwait. He is highly regarded for his work by the local people and goes in particularly for eye operations. He is not politically-minded and is agreeable to deal with. He married the present Mrs. Storm six years ago, his previous wife having died. She had worked as a missionary in China. She is a woman of between 40 and 50, a trained nurse, and helps her husband in his work and is also thought very well of by the locals.

15. Thornburgh, Mr. Max Weston

Born 1892. An American citizen. At one time Vice-President of the California Texas Oil Company, and as such resident for some time at Bahrain before the last war. During the last war was Petroleum Adviser to the United States State Department. While he was at Bahrain the late Shaikh Hamad gave him a small desert island off the north-west corner of the main island. He sunk a well in it and planted a garden. He has now built himself a house and office and resides there occasionally with his wife and son. He regards himself as an economic consultant for all Middle East countries and spends much of his time visiting those countries to collect economic information. Is also retained as a consultant by some oil companies—Shell in particular. Is *persona non grata* with the Bahrain Petroleum Company because he advocates a much more liberal policy towards the Bahrain Government.

16. Yusuf Fakhroo

Born about 1880. A wealthy Holi merchant and boat owner of Muharraq who became a Bahrain subject some years ago. A large, stout man, he never looks one straight in the face, but in conversation assumes a bluff manner. He is the head of a large family of no social status with connexions in Qatar and Persia. By lending money to Shaikh Abdullah

bin Isa and other members of the Ruling Family, Yusuf Fakhroo has acquired a strong influence with some of the Al Khalifah. The latter, however, do not like him.

Yusuf Fakhroo used to run a sort of private municipality service in Muharrag, for which he received a monthly payment from the Government. This was before the present municipality organisation was set up. When his accounts came to be examined he could not give a satisfactory explanation of his spending, but the Shaikhs decided not to prosecute a full enquiry into the conduct of the business in the past. When the Muharrag School was started in 1919 Yusuf Fakhroo was made treasurer. Later, when the government took over direct control of education, various shady transactions came to light. Yusuf Fakhroo was paid a monthly sum with which to run the Muharrag School and he was assisted by the advice of a subservient committee. Since municipal and educational affairs in Muharrag were taken out of Fakhroo's hands he has never lost an opportunity of doing harm to the administration of these two departments.

Twenty years ago Yusuf Fakhroo was involved in certain gun-running incidents and there is reason to suppose that he was also interested in slave traffic. At one time he sat on every council and mejlis, wielding great authority in public life, but four years ago, owing to his behaviour during some local political trouble, he was dismissed by the late Shaikh Hamad from all public bodies. His son Ahmad has taken his place on the Municipal Council.

Yusuf Fakhroo was for many years forbidden to appear at the Agency, but this ban was afterwards lifted. He is still one of the richest and most powerful men in Bahrain. He has an independent outlook and is not at all inclined to conceal his opinions, which he expresses roughly, no matter how offensive they may be to his hearers.

Kuwait

1. Abdullah bin Ahmad, Shaikh

Born in 1905. The eldest son of the late Ruler of Kuwait, his mother being a member of one of the leading mercantile families. Is very dark and fat, and is Governor of the Citadel at Kuwait. He has little personality or influence and is unlikely to be considered seriously for the succession. He has recently been acting for Abdullah al Mubarak as Governor of the town whenever the latter is on a tour or away from the country. He maintains good reputation for his dealings with the merchants as far as cash payment is concerned. Is known to be strictly religious.

2. Abdullah bin Jabir, Shaikh

Born in 1902. A member of the Ruling Family of Kuwait and a son-in-law of the late Ruler. He has for many years been Chief Judge and Director of Education. A pleasant personality with a reputation for kindness of heart and fairness of judgment.

Being probably out of the running for the succession, he is less bedevilled by family intrigues than most of the ruling family, and is a steady, if conservative, influence for gradual progress. His eldest son, aged 20, who was for three or four years at Victoria College in Alexandria, acts as assistant to his father.

3. Abdullah bin Mubarak, Shaikh

Born in 1910. A true son of the great Shaikh Mubarak of Kuwait, by a Georgian slave, and uncle of the present Ruler. Fair of complexion and corpulent of figure, he is a remarkably active and energetic man and has the very uncommon attribute of being able to get things done. He is Governor of Kuwait and in charge of law and order throughout the Shaikh-

dom. He spends much of his time rushing off into the desert in motor vehicles to chase either malefactors or gazelle.

He has accepted the new Ruler with apparent good faith although there is some atmosphere of tension and uncertainty between the two. He is sharp contrast to the Ruler, impulsive, arbitrary and spendthrift (and is criticised in the town on the latter ground); he sets out to have everything rather bigger and better than the Ruler, and with these propensities he can hope to succeed. He is sincerely pro-British, and would probably take advice provided he did not have to admit to taking it.

4. Abdullah bin Mullah Saleh, M.B.E.

Born in 1906. Secretary to Shaikh of Kuwait. Awarded the M.B.E. in 1947. Succeeded his father as Secretary to the Shaikh of Kuwait in 1938. Is well educated and has a good knowledge of English. Has considerable influence over the Ruler and always places the Ruler's interests immediately after his own, unless the two happen to coincide. He is pro-British and usually helpful to the Political Agent.

He is the Shaikh's representative to the two oil companies, who can engage no local labour without his permission. He has very wide commercial interests including the local tobacco factory and the electricity company and he represents Iraqi Airways and Middle East Airlines.

5. Abdullah bin Salim, Shaikh, C.I.E.

Born about 1888. Was created C.I.E. in 1938. Son of Shaikh Salim (Ruler of Kuwait 1917-21), he was first cousin to the late Ruler, whom he opposed with active feelings of dislike, and nearly succeeded in unseating in 1938. He subsequently became head of the Consultative Council, and in charge of the State treasury. He was absent from Kuwait when the late Ruler died in January 1950, and he returned two days later to find himself accepted by the Subah family as the next Ruler.

In contrast to Shaikh Ahmad, he is widely read, although knowing no foreign language, and does not instinctively recoil from new ideas. His language mixes literary Arabic with local Kuwaiti, which, pronounced as if he had a hot potato in his mouth, makes him none too easy to understand. His accession as Ruler has given him a dignity which he lacked before, and he exercises great charm of manner with a complete lack of pretension. His health, however, is not good, and he regularly spends every other week-end on the island of Failakah, where he escapes from all administrative cares. He is not a strong character, and is more concerned with avoiding trouble, particularly from the Subah family or from Ibn Sa'ud (who was said to dislike him) than with any positive achievement; provided trouble is avoided he appears sincerely anxious to further the welfare of his State. He has refused to permit his brothers (Nos. 10 and 18) to benefit from his position as Ruler. His only children are by slave girls.

6. Abdur Rahman bin Mohammad Bahar, Haji

Born in 1884. Reputed to be the richest and most miserly merchant in Kuwait. Is a member of the Advisory Council. In politics he is pro-British and a supporter of His Highness. Deals in general merchandise such as sugar, rice, tea, piece-goods and coffee. His war time profits were not on the scale of other merchants as he kept strictly to commission work and followed a conservative trade policy.

7. Abdur Razuq Razuqi, Khan Bahadur

Born in 1900. Made a Khan Bahadur in 1943. An Arab of Kuwait who joined His Majesty's Government service when a young boy and for many years was Residency Agent on the Trucial Coast, from

which post he retired in 1946. An extremely able man who did much good political work on the Trucial Coast, but at the same time used his position to enrich himself, and acquired landed property at Khor Fakan and elsewhere. He now devotes himself to commerce. Is progressive and very keen on agricultural development. Has introduced oil-driven pumps for lifting water for gardens in Kuwait, and on the Trucial Coast. Has recently opened a hotel in Kuwait town. Has a great deal of knowledge and experience and his advice is often helpful.

8. Ahmad bin Suleiman al Khalaf, Haji

Born in 1890. He is the unofficial head of the shipwrights at Kuwait and is a pleasant and efficient man, honourable and loyal to the Ruler and entirely British in his sympathies. He has made a great deal of money, but being of a generous disposition he has little left, having helped many score of the poorer members of his own craft. He and his son Haji Firdan are the best ship-builders and own the biggest yard. During the war he did a great deal of work for His Majesty's Government and did it very well. He figures in Villier's book "The Sons of Sinbad."

9. Dickson, Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Richard, C.I.E.

Born in 1881. Chief Local Representative of the Kuwait Oil Company since 1936. Son of the late John Dickson, H.B.M.'s Consul-General, Jerusalem. Educated at St. Edward's School, Oxford and Wadham College, Oxford. First commission 1903. Served in India, eventually joining the Indian Army. Went to Iraq as a military officer in 1914 and in 1915 was transferred to the Political Department. Served in the Nasriyah area from 1917-19. Political Agent, Bahrain, 1919-20. Adviser to Mutassarif Hillah Liwa, Iraq, 1921-23. Private Secretary to Maharajah of Bikaner, 1927. Secretary to the Honourable the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, 1928-29. Political Agent, Kuwait, Persian Gulf, 1929-36. Acted as Political Agent, Kuwait, during the summer of 1941 at the request of His Majesty's Government. Has an immense knowledge of the Bedouin and their ways but is very diffuse in imparting it. Although he has not the ear of the present Ruler as he had that of Shaikh Ahmad, he holds the confidence of the Kuwaitis, and although getting too old for his job, he is still of value to the company for that reason, apart from the fact that they are unable to find anyone to replace him. Mrs. Dickson holds the M.B.E. and is a very able woman. She talks Arabic well and is *persona grata* in most of the Kuwait harems, where she picks up useful information. Is interested in botany and has compiled a list of Kuwait flora.

10. Fahad bin Salim, Shaikh

Born in 1906. Second son of Shaikh Salim bin Mubarak of Kuwait by a black slave, and half-brother of Shaikh Abdullah bin Salim. An unpleasant personality with the appearance and mentality of a slave. Was partially educated at Beirut, and can speak some English. Is anti-British. From time to time he has been allowed to play a part in the State's finances to his own profit and the State's loss. He spends most of his time abroad.

He has ambitions which are unlikely to be realised, and is not on good terms with his brother, the Ruler, because the latter has not given him any job in the Government.

11. Izzat Jaffar, Effendi

Born in 1912. Born in Egypt and educated in Syria. Speaks English well. He was styled aide-de-camp to the late Shaikh Ahmad and acted as his social secretary and controller of his household. On the death of Shaikh Ahmad, he remained in the palace as friend of Lady Ahmad (sister of the Ruler)

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and of her two sons Jabir and Subah. Has a smooth tongue and good manners. During the war he is believed to have been in touch with the Axis Powers and especially with the Italian Legation in Damascus. He carries on a considerable amount of private trade. He has particularly close relations with the American Independent Oil Company who recently obtained the concession for the Shaikh of Kuwait's share of the Neutral Zone and in 1948 visited America as their guest.

Although he has no influence over the present Ruler, he is still active in intrigues within the family, in putting out rumours (usually for the purpose of his own aggrandisement) and in his efforts to regain his former position. The country would be better without him.

12. Jabir bin Ahmad, Shaikh

Third son of the late Ruler, born 1926. He is in charge of the Kuwait Police stationed at Ahmadi to police the Kuwait Oil Company area. A pleasant young man with some knowledge of English, but lacking any education or training, he is liable to attempt to conceal his deficiencies by an arrogant air and a refusal to co-operate with the Kuwait Oil Company or to admit the need for any action on his part. He has unfortunately been brought up under the malign influence of Izzat Jaafar.

13. Jordan, Mr. L. E.

Born in 1906. General Manager of the Kuwait Oil Company at Kuwait since 1948. Born in Texas and educated at the Lufkin Grammar and High Schools. Later he attended the Texas College, where he took a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1929. In June of the same year he was employed by the Venezuela Gulf Oil Company (a subsidiary of the Gulf Oil Corporation) as a Petroleum Engineer. From 1931 to 1935 he served as a production engineer in this company and gained experience in drilling and other production operations. In 1937 he was made Assistant Field Superintendent in charge of drilling, construction and production in the Taparito field, and shortly afterwards was promoted to Chief Production Engineer in charge of the company's Lake Maracaibo operations. He became Assistant District Manager of the Venezuela Gulf Oil Company in 1939 and in 1945 was made District Manager of the company's Western Venezuelan operations. Quiet and efficient but does too much work himself. Is liked by the Shaikh. His wife is pleasant but lacks personality.

14. Mr. J. MacPherson

Born 1890 in England, naturalised United States citizen. Manager in Kuwait of the American Independent Oil Company, who have the concession for the Kuwait interest in the oil in the Neutral Zone. Originally employed by the Standard Oil Company of California, he was for a number of years in charge of the Arabian American Oil Company's operations in Dharan. He joined the American Independent Oil Company in 1949. A typical Scots-American, small and wiry, with a brusque manner and a cigar, he is a hard worker who finds the modest scale on which his company is having to work in the beginning rather cramping to his style. His parents still live in England and he is always friendly and co-operative.

15. Mohammad bin Ahmad, Shaikh

Born in 1907. Second son of Shaikh Ahmad, the Ruler of Kuwait. Although he is a full brother of Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmad, he is not so gross, and is of lighter complexion. He was educated in Beirut and speaks English. He has managed His Highness's affairs in Basra, and in particular the litigation over his date gardens for some time, and does his work with reasonable efficiency. In 1946 he was

shot by an Iraqi patrol close to the Iraq-Kuwait frontier, in the belief that he was a smuggler, and wounded in the neck, but has since fully recovered from his injuries. It is doubtful whether he is a strict teetotaler, and he is reported to have a fondness for poker and a convivial evening. He is popular in Iraqi circles and knows how to get round minor officials.

16. Nurf Yusuf al Nurf

Born about 1898. Member of a prominent Kuwaiti family and one of four brothers. From 1934 until the troubles in 1938 he was Director of the Municipality. He then went to Karachi to represent his brother's firm, later returning to Kuwait, where he continued such commercial activities until 1947. He then became director of finances in the Department of Education and in 1948 the director of the Department of Health. He is also on the Education Committee. He is one of the more efficient of the public servants of Kuwait, doing his work without fuss, and he gives full support to Dr. Parry, the British doctor in charge of the State hospital. His brother, Muhammad is in charge of the Department of Public Works.

17 Subah bin Nasir, Shaikh

Born in 1906. A member of the Kuwait Ruling Family and strong supporter of Shaikh Ahmad, who owed much to his assistance during the 1938 troubles. He spends most of his time in the desert, and is mentally unstable, in fact he is little better than a criminal lunatic. Some years ago he murdered his younger brother while sitting beside him in the Kuwait town, threw the body out of the car, and drove over it several times. During recent years he has been deeply involved in the smuggling between Kuwait and Iraq. In 1948 he murdered three Muntafiq tribesmen including a member of the powerful Sadun family who were participating in the smuggling racket on behalf of a rival Shaikh. Shaikh Ahmad threatened to expel him, and he fled to Ibn Saud, who refused to receive him. He subsequently returned to Kuwait, where Shaikh Ahmad was loath to take further action against him owing to the assistance he had received from him in the past.

Although the present Ruler has no reason to love him, yet as a member of the Subah family he continues to enjoy his support. His latest activities appear to include slave-trading. As a grandson of Shaikh Mubarak he is considered as a possibility for the succession, although the possibility is remote.

18. Subah bin Salim, Shaikh

Born in 1913, he is a half-brother of the Ruler. A little man with a little mind, he has been in charge of the town police since 1939, the traffic police also coming under his charge. He is jealous of most people but particularly of Shaikh Abdullah Mubarak. He is reputed to be very garrulous when he gets the chance.

19. Yusuf bin Ahmad al Ghanim

Born in 1903. At present probably the most prominent member of the Kuwait mercantile community. Has travelled to England and America and speaks English. Works as Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's agent in Kuwait and carries out much contract work for the Kuwait Oil Company. Holds numerous agencies for British and American firms. A clever business man whose politics are liable to change with his personal interests.

20. Yusuf bin Mohammad Behbahani

Born in 1892. A leading Kuwait merchant and one of the largest contractors for the Kuwait Oil Company. Runs an up-to-date business in wireless sets, watches and higher grade dry goods. Pro-British. Well known for his generosity.

Muscat

1. Ahmad bin Ibrahim, Saiyid

Born about 1898. Is a member of a junior branch of the Ruling Family of Muscat. His headquarters are in an old Portuguese fort at Hazm, commanding one of the routes leading into the interior of Oman. It is said that at one time he used to hoist the White Flag of Oman and the Red Flag of Muscat as suited his convenience, but for some years now he has been in the employ of the Sultan as Minister of Internal Affairs. He is a picturesque figure with a long grey beard and has a forceful personality, but is notorious for his cruelty and corruption.

In June and July 1948, he visited the Buraimi area as the Sultan's representative in an effort to get the tribes in that area to comply with the Sultan's wishes regarding the exploitation of oil there.

The Sultan is reported to have been well pleased with his work there and in consequence his stock has risen.

2. Bhacker, Abdul Latif, Haji

Born about 1885. Is the most prominent member of the Khoja community in Matrah, and the head of a firm which has branches in Gwadar and Mekran. A cunning old rogue and an expert smuggler. He owns a fish-meal factory at Matrah which is not at present working, pending the arrival of certain machinery which has been ordered from the United Kingdom, and the obtaining of the services of an European engineer at a price no one will come for. He is a Muscati subject, although most of his community, who have been settled in Muscat for many generations, are still treated as British subjects.

3. Campbell, Major Charles Grimshaw

Late of Guides Infantry. Born 1912. Appointed by the Sultan as Commandant of the Muscat Infantry, and in charge of the police, in January 1950. Though shy to an almost painful extent, he is a good soldier and student of Arabic, most co-operative and well balanced in outlook and likely to be a great asset to the Sultan and popular with his Arab officials and the public generally.

4. Dykestra-, Reverend Dirk

Head of the local branch of the American Dutch Reformed Mission, and residing in Muscat since 1909. With his wife has endeavoured with little success to run a school and church in Muscat. Owing to their giving religious instruction to Arab boys in the school, the present Sultan recently forbade his subjects from sending their children, with the result that attendance is limited to the few children of the Mission's employees. It is believed that not a single convert has been gained by this mission, and it is hard to know what this elderly couple find to do. They are friendly and co-operative with the British community but, naturally somewhat critical of the Sultan's administration.

5. Gokaldass, Rai Bahadur

Born about 1908. Head of the firm Khimji Ramdass in Muscat, and leader of the Hindu community there. Is a typical Hindu "bania," with smooth manners and plenty of business ability. Has from time to time undertaken Government contracts, especially for the present supply of rations to labour employed by the R.A.F. on Masirah island. Has always been anxious to keep in with the British authorities, and is very nervous about the attitude the Sultan is likely to adopt towards Hindus if they cease to be under British protection. His name has been suggested to the Government of India for appointment as their non-career Vice-Consul at Muscat. Can be trusted to make as much money as he can out of every transaction, regardless of other people's interests. With the establishment of a branch of the

Imperial Bank of Iran at Muscat, his firm has lost some of the financial hold which they previously had over the place.

6. Ismail Khalili al Rassassi

Born about 1908. A Palestinian who has been in the service of the Sultan of Muscat since 1929. He was originally a school teacher, but is now Wali or Governor of Matrah. He was at one time believed to be strongly anti-British, but is outwardly very friendly. The Sultan makes use of him owing to his lack of educated and experienced persons to hold positions of trust, but he must be regarded as rather a doubtful character.

He was formerly permitted to exercise some measure of supervision over the other Walis, but this supervision is now exercised by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Saiyid Ahmad (No. 1), as the Sultan is believed to have decided that Rassassi is too corrupt for the purpose.

7. Mohammad bin Abdullah al Khalili

Born about 1878. A member of the Beni Ruwahi. In 1920 he was elected as the Imam of Oman. As such he possesses spiritual authority over most of the tribes of the interior and also considerable temporal power. He resides at Nizwa, and has his own Walis or Governors stationed at various places throughout Oman. His influence is naturally opposed to that of the Sultan, who is anxious to bring the whole of Oman under his control. Mohammad bin Abdullah, is opposed to all progress and especially to the penetration of Oman by Christians in search of oil. He has recently placed under his interdict the only car to reach his headquarters. His death has been expected and hoped for by the Sultan for many years but he shows remarkable powers of survival and is now reported to be fitter than ever.

8. Said bin Taimur, Saiyid, Sultan of Muscat

Born in 1910. He succeeded as Sultan on the abdication of his father in 1932. Is normally accorded the title of "His Highness," but he does not allow this to be used in official documents, and as an independent ruler is probably anxious to be given the title of "His Majesty." He is an honorary G.C.S.I. and K.C.I.E. but these titles are not used when addressing him and he made a mild protest in 1946 when the G.C.S.I. was conferred on him without his first being consulted. He was educated at the Mayo College, Ajmer, and speaks excellent English. He was at school in Bagdad from 1927-28. He visited the United Kingdom and United States in the winter of 1937-38. Is small in stature and rather shy and timid in his manner, but very astute and careful to preserve his dignity. He has a remarkable knowledge of correct procedure and can be relied on to "do the right thing" in public, although he appears terrified of appearing a fool on public occasions. He is always most polite and courteous, and reasonable regarding all matters which have no effect on his personal status. Is sincerely anxious to maintain his family's long-standing friendship with His Majesty's Government. His rule is of an entirely personal nature and he has few competent persons to assist him, and few even whom he can trust. He has now a British Minister for Foreign Affairs, Administrator in Gwadar and commandant of his force of some 300 military and of his police, but so far has invested them with no more power than his other employees. His chief ambition is to extend his control over the whole of Oman, of most of which he is ruler in name only. He spends much of his time in his province of Dhofar many hundred miles from Muscat, and the administration of his State is liable to suffer in consequence. Whilst in Muscat he renders himself rather inaccessible also, a fact

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which does not help to make him popular. He has one son born in 1940, Saiyid Qabus. Though he made enquiries about schools in the Lebanon or Egypt, no decision has so far been made as to his education.

9. Saif bin Ahmed bin Hamid al Rashidi

Born in 1910. Eldest of four sons of Ahmed on whose death on 14th December, 1948, he succeeded as Tamimah of the Beni Ruwahi tribe. Lives in the Wadi Ruwahi. Is in opposition to the Imam of Oman, who belongs to the same tribe, and is on good terms with the Sultan. He is believed to wield as much influence as his father and to be as well disposed towards the British.

10. Saleh bin Isa al Harthi

The most influential Hinawi Shaikh and accepted as their Tamimah. It is said that his power extends to passing sentence of death upon any member of his faction. In August or September 1949 he visited Muscat on his return from India, where he went for medical treatment, as a guest to the Sultan, and called on the political agent. He received ammunition, rifles and Rs. 6,000/- as a gift from the Sultan. His knowledge of Arabic poetry is said to be good. He is only about 30 years of age, and resides at Ibra in the Sharqiyah district of the Sultanate, headquarters of the El Hirth, of which he is the Shaikh. He has two wives but no sons. He succeeded his brother Mohammad, who died in 1948. His heir is his cousin Ahmed bin Mohd: bin Isa at present.

11. Shahab bin Faisal, Saiyid

Born in 1902. Uncle of the Sultan of Muscat and full brother of the ex-Sultan, Saiyid Taimur. He ordinarily acts as personal representative at Muscat for ceremonial purposes while the Sultan is absent at Dhofar. He has charming manners and speaks the best Arabic but in administrative matters is inefficient and corrupt, and is not trusted by the Sultan, who latterly has been unwilling to grant him any real authority during his absences.

12. Sulaiman bin Hamyar al Nabhani, Shaikh

Born in 1911. Probably now the most influential Shaikh in the interior of Oman. He is supposed to be the right-hand man of Mohammad bin Abdullah, the Imam (No. 7), but is also on good terms with the Sultan. Messrs. Petroleum Concessions, Limited, who own an oil concession from the Sultan for the whole of Oman, are endeavouring to obtain his co-operation in their explorations of the interior.

Has recently sought recognition by His Majesty's Government as an independent Shaikh. Resides in the Jebal Akhdar and is Tamimah of Ghafir. Aged about 45 and has three sons, the eldest, Sultan, being his heir.

13. Taimur bin Faisal, Saiyid

Born about 1888. Sultan of Muscat—1913-32, when he abdicated voluntarily. He was a weak ruler and was only too glad to be relieved of further responsibility for the management of affairs when his son Saiyid Said (No. 8) was old enough to take his place. He receives an allowance of Rupees 2,000 a month from the Muscat Government. He had a catholic taste in wives and married amongst others a Turkish and a Japanese lady. He lived for some years before the war in Japan, and had one daughter by his Japanese wife. He is now living as a private man in Bombay, and likes to be known by the name of "Mr. T. F. Al Said." He is on good terms with his son, the present Sultan, and paid a visit to him in Muscat in 1945, and has since been visited in Bombay by the Sultan.

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14. Tarik bin Taimur, Saiyid

Born in 1922. Half-brother of the Sultan of Muscat and son of the ex-Sultan, Saiyid Taimur, by his Turkish wife. He was educated during his early years in the English school at Constantinople, and later in Germany, and speaks good English and German. He returned to Muscat shortly before the war, and his first task there was to learn Arabic. During the war, he spent some years in India, where he received training in police work and civil administration. He also spent some months attached as an officer with the Zhob Militia in Baluchistan. Is a man of strong physique and character, and is probably feared by the Sultan, who has so far failed to give him any position commensurate with his abilities. He is at present employed as President of the Municipality of Matrah and Muscat. He was married, it is believed somewhat against his will, to an Arab lady in 1946, and a son was born to him in 1947. Is very friendly and enjoys British society and games of hockey, tennis and bridge.

15. Thoms, Dr. Wells

Born about 1906. Like his father before him, has been medical officer of the American Dutch Reformed Mission for many years. Is a very able doctor and popular with the tribesmen, and has visited all parts of the interior of Oman, about which he has provided much useful information to the American Survey authorities for the completion of maps under preparation on the basis of the air survey carried out during the war. He is always very friendly and co-operative, and in particular rendered much medical assistance to the personnel of the vessels engaged in the salvaging of the *Dahpu* in the hot weather of 1946.

16. Woods-Ballard, Lieutenant-Colonel Basil, C.I.E., M.B.E.

Late of the Indian Political Service. Aged 49. Appointed as Minister for Foreign Affairs in February 1949. Name forwarded to the Sultan by the Foreign Office (when asked for candidates for the post. Has not had much opportunity to demonstrate his talents as the Sultan has not so far delegated to him any authority, though he expects all business with foreigners to be transacted through him. The chief characteristics of the official attitude are secrecy, caution, independent status and extreme economy. Within these narrow limits set him "Nadhir Al-Khrijyyah" as he is styled, tries to be as co-operative as possible.

17. Wynne, Mr. Martin Gaymour, M.B.E.

Appointed by the Sultan to be Administrator in Gwador in April 1949. Ex-Indian Police. Born in 1910. A well read person with plenty of energy and enterprise, who, if allowed to, would probably run the small Gwador enclave very well. But hitherto the Sultan has left the Administration entirely in the hands of the Wali, entrusting the "Administrator" with only municipal hygiene and recommendations for improvements, for which the minimum funds are likely to be available. Whether he will be content to continue indefinitely in such circumstances, in a place without society or amenities remains to be seen.

Qatar**1. Abdullah bin Darwish**

Born about 1903. Lives at Doha (Qatar). A typical sharp, avaricious, vain and calculating merchant of Persian origin. Until the second world war, he was a man of meagre means, but like many others, he profited by taking advantage of war conditions. His particular line was smuggling, in which

he was helped by the laxity and avarice of the Ruler and the deceased Sheikh Hamad, who was the Ruler's youngest son and appointed successor. He paid them heavily for their compliance, but his immediate profits were large enough to stand the strain, and by making himself indispensable to them, he became executor of Sheikh Hamad's will and administrator of his estates, thus recouping his initial expenditure with interest. It appears probable that he will succeed in laying hands on Sheikh Abdullah's fortune in the same way. He is distributor for Anglo-Iranian Oil Company products in Qatar, contractor to Petroleum Development (Qatar), Ltd., sole contractor to the Superior Oil Company once they begin their operations, the only Qatar merchant to hold any business agencies for European firms, is related by blood and by trade to the Fakhroo family in Bahrain, and by marriage to the ruling family of Qatar. He has made himself the wealthiest and most powerful man in Qatar.

He has consolidated his influence over the present Ruler by lending him money and by avoiding the error made by Salih al Mani' (No. 9) of quarrelling with Sheikh Abdullah, who still exercises great influence over his son, Sheikh Ali (No. 4). He is the virtual Ruler of Qatar, using both his wealth and his influence over the Sheikh to secure a monopoly of all worthwhile business, and place obstacles in the way of his competitors.

He is a man of immense ability and energy, whose unpleasant and domineering nature encourages Europeans to criticise his activities frankly and even rudely. He does not enjoy this, but he profits from it, and his technical efficiency has increased and is increasing at a remarkable rate. He is noisily pro-British, and has intelligence enough to try to appear to be going our way, and to advocate the sort of thing which he knows we want, but fundamentally his nature and aims are incompatible with ours, and his influence on the course of affairs in Qatar at present is bad.

His moral character is said to be worse than the generality of people amongst whom he lives. He is probably the best-hated man in Qatar.

2. Abdullah bin Qasim al Thani, His Excellency Sheikh

Former Ruler of Qatar. Abdicated on 21st August, 1949, about six months after losing his son Hamad, on whom he greatly relied, and whom he had designated as his successor. Took with him the entire contents of the Treasury, plus a pension of 4 lacs (£30,000) a year, leaving his eldest son, Ali, in the penniless States which contributed largely to the speed with which Darwish was able to establish control over him.

He now lives at Riyan, about ten miles from Doha, where he dominates his son, and is dominated by the Darwish brothers, to whom he has practically abandoned the management of his property and affairs. He is a venerable, patriarchal, white-bearded figure, with a firm old face which does not belie his character, and even in his approaching dotage is quite clearly a stronger character than his son. He suffers from diabetes and some chronic complaint of the legs, and recently had a slight stroke which has left him unable to rise without assistance, and considerably more halting of speech than formerly.

His influence over Sheikh Ali is seen in numerous instances, and the latter never takes any important decision without consulting him, but the most outstanding case recently was his intervention in the allocation of the family allowances from the oil royalties, and his insistence on larger allowances for those of whom he approved personally, irrespective of the claims of justice and equity. His interference on that occasion has produced a situation which will gravely hamper Sheikh Ali in his future efforts to

deal with this problem, which in a country like Qatar is of fundamental importance. In general, his presence in the country during the first vital days of his son's rule has had a bad influence on the latter.

3. Abdul Rahman bin Darwish

The youngest of the Darwish brothers. Gives an impression of oily untrustworthiness which is only too accurately borne out by subsequent acquaintance. His morals are loose, but he is an astute rogue, and his smooth manners help him to take in those whom he deals with more successfully than can his brother Abdullah. But whereas further acquaintance with Abdullah may lead to a more favourable appraisal of his character, based on his undoubted ability, second thoughts on Abdul Rahman are unlikely ever to do so. He is the family liaison man and do-all.

4. Ali bin Abdullah al Thani, His Excellency, Sheikh

Succeeded his father as Ruler in August 1949. He is Abdullah's eldest son, reportedly about 56 years of age. A fine presence, and in repose a dignity too soon belied by the vacuity of his conversation and the hysterical fury of his ineffectual wrath. A weak, self-indulgent character, spendthrift where his father was miserly, and vacillating where his father was obstinate. Is easily influenced, and at present entirely under the domination of the Darwish brothers, whom he refers to as his children, although before his succession they were at no pains even to be polite to him.

He is bigoted in religious matters, having sought consolation in religious contemplation when, in his earlier days, his father's favour and trust was extended over his head to his brother Hamad.

Although he can seldom be persuaded to wise courses by reason, a show of firmness will generally intimidate him and cause him to acquiesce though unconvinced. Since his accession he has not gone contrary to the wishes and advice of His Majesty's Government in any matter on which considered representations have been made to him. There are signs that he retains considerable mental reservations however, and in his efforts to avoid the full implementation of the undertakings which he gives, he gets support and assistance from the Darwish brothers, who supply him with the arguments, excuses and subterfuges which, left alone, he could be incapable of devising.

He has six sons, of whom the second, Ahmad, is at once his favourite and the most intelligent and promising. The question of the succession is at present unsettled, being confused by the presence of the sons of Hamad, who in their father's life time were considered his most probable successors.

5. Ali bin Ahmad al Ansari

Customs Director at Zakreet. A Sa'udi, in his middle thirties. The ablest, pleasantest, and as far as can be seen the straightest of the Arab officials of the Qatar Government. Is hostile to the Darwish faction, and in consequence not in great favour with the Sheikh.

6. Jasim bin Darwish

The eldest of the Darwish brothers, and an essential element in their system. The other brothers defer ostentatiously to Jasim, who is very much the "chef de famille." He is also of a pious disposition, and helps lend an air of respectability to a family sadly in need of it. He scrupulously avoids any appearance of mixing in "politics," but is of great use in translating into suitably Koranic language, for the benefit of Sheikh Ali, the latest questionable scheme hatched by Abdullah.

He is said to be very fond of his Syrian wife, whom he treats with customary cruelty (she suffered

for a week with toothache before she could escape clandestinely to the mission hospital) and he is considered by the ladies of Dukhan to be "rather a dear."

7. Mohammed al Mani'

Born about 1875. He is a cousin of Salih al Mani', and rather like a benevolent old goat (with spectacles) in appearance, but is an old-fashioned and courteous man. He is one of the wealthiest men in Qatar, having first made his money dealing in pearls. He was the first contractor to the oil company, and for years occupied in fact, though probably not as offensively and certainly not as efficiently, the monopolistic position which Abdullah Darwish now seeks to obtain. He was ousted from his pre-eminent place in business and the counsels of the Sheikh by Abdullah Darwish's greater thrust, ability and unscrupulousness, and has now firmly retired from politics and leads the life of a senior and respected member of the merchant community.

8. Mohammed bin Uthman

Director of Customs, Doha. He is related to the Darwish family and is married to their sister. He is of the al-Bu-Fakhroo family. He has been Director of Customs for about five years, and although his salary has only recently risen from 400 rupees a month to 800 rupees, he has just completed a house said to have cost 2 lacs. He is very much in the Darwish camp, and appears to have the complete confidence of, and considerable influence with the Ruler.

9. Salih al Mani'

Born about 1893, but despite his exclusively male household and the all-too-obvious presence of a still beneath his front staircase, he does not look his age. He is a Nejdî by origin, and started his career as a small pearl merchant, at the same time doing some clerking for the Ruler, whose secretary and "Representative" he became. He acquired great influence and wealth while he had the Ruler's complete confidence, but realised last year that he was being eclipsed by the Darwish, and after they had several times over-ridden him in the Sheikh's counsels, he quarrelled violently with Sheikh Abdullah at the time of his abdication, in the engineering of which he undoubtedly played a considerable part. If he thought that he had thus cut the ground from under the Darwish feet, and substituted a ruler more amenable to his own will, he was rudely disappointed. The Darwish consolidated their position with a flexibility and sureness of touch in marked contrast to his own touchy cantankerousness, and Salih's position has continued to deteriorate. He co-operates loyally with His Majesty's Government in most matters, both from conviction and from the clear realisation that only if things go our way does he stand any chance of survival. This enables the Darwish, who usually have more palatable advice to offer, to represent him as the creature of the British. He is the only active counterweight to the Darwish at present, but his addiction to alcohol and a number of other practices of dubious integrity make him a vulnerable ally.

Trucial Coast**1. Ahmad bin Rashid al Mua'lla, Shaikh**

Ruler of Umm Al Qaiwain. Born in 1904 and succeeded in 1929. He is enormously fat and quiet, and, to meet him in audience, one would imagine that he was anchored permanently to his chair; yet in his small way he is a wise, straightforward, peaceful and efficient administrator. He keeps his word and avoids interference in other people's affairs. Is, therefore, popular and much respected by the other Shaikhs,

who, with their tribes, regard him as an authority on their affairs and approach him often for mediation in their disputes. He has full authority in his territory and is very loyal to His Majesty's Government and uses his influence on other Shaikhs to be the same.

2. Hamad bin Sai'd bin Hamad bin Majid al Qasimi

Ruler of Kalba. Born in 1930. The last ruler of Kalba, Sai'd bin Hamad, died on the 30th April, 1937. From 1st May to the 16th September, 1937, Kalba's condition was unsettled as the Shaikhs of Ras al Khaimah and Sharjah were intriguing and trying to seize it for themselves. The people eventually agreed to the minor Shaikh, Hamad bin Sai'd, succeeding his father, and elected Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmad as Regent (No. 5).

As a result of the influence of the Regent's nephew, Shaikh Humaid, Shaikh Hamad bin Sai'd now takes no part in State affairs. He was sent to Bahrain in 1944 to be educated, but only stayed four months and refused to return.

3. Hazza' bin Sultan

Born about 1911. Brother of Shaikh Shakhbut of Abu Dhabi (No. 13). He is popular, courageous and very successful with the tribes, and well up in tribal matters. He is a skilful (and very tiresome) negotiator, talkative, persistent and only half-literate. He often represents Shaikh Shakhbut officially and is a possible successor. He lives most of the time in Buraimi and occasionally visits Bahrain.

4. Juma bin Maktum, Shaikh

Born about 1888. Eldest brother of the Shaikh of Dubai. This old man, with his direct noisy manner, used to be regarded, rather in the light of a comic relief, to the ceremonial visits of the Shaikh. During the Dubai-Abu Dhabi dispute he revealed himself, however, as an influential intriguer carrying weight in the Dubai councils which was thrown into the scale against the interests of His Majesty's Government. To it he indeed professed loyalty, but he seems in actual fact to have even more than usually the Arab dislike of the unbelievers.

5. Khalid bin Ahmad bin Sultan al Qasimi, Shaikh

Born in 1878. Shaikh Khalid was the Ruler of Sharjah until he was deposed in 1924 by the present Ruler, Sultan bin Saqr (No. 15). He then made several abortive attempts to retake Sharjah. He was appointed Regent of Kalba on the 17th September, 1937.

Shaikh Khalid has grown old and seldom takes part in the management of the affairs of the State. He lives most of the time in Hira (Sharjah), leaving his nephew Humaid, over whom he has no influence, in sole charge of his affairs. He receives an allowance from the Shaikh of Sharjah and possesses Dhaid and Diba/Hisn (independently and not as part of Kalba).

Shaikh Khalid is illiterate, but is an authority on the history of the Jawasim. He gets intermittent attacks of malaria. He is friendly with all other Rulers and tribal chiefs, and particularly with the Shaikh of Fujairah; he is well disposed towards the British Government.

In 1948 Khor Fakkan revolted from him and the people of Kalba also desired to throw off his authority. It was proposed to appoint another Regent, but he suddenly re-asserted himself and recaptured Khor Fakkan by force. The proposal to replace him is therefore in abeyance.

6. Khalid bin Sultan

Born about 1914. Brother of Shaikh Shakhbut of Abu Dhabi (No. 13). He lives mostly in Abu Dhabi

assisting the Shaikh, but is illiterate and not very talkative.

7. Mohammad bin Hamad ash-Sharqi

Shaikh of Fujairah. Born in 1906. Became Shaikh of Fujairah after the death of his elder brother in December 1940. This Shaikh, who is not a Ruler recognised by His Majesty's Government, is a better and more capable sort than several who have been. Much of the territory controlled by him used to be under Jawasim rule, but his father broke away from the Jawasim control and the latter exercise no influence in the Fujairah area now. Shaikh Mohammad is active and straightforward and his tribesmen, the Sharqiyeen, pay complete allegiance to him and he exercises full authority over them. He is friendly with the other Trucial Rulers and tribes with the exception of, of course, the Jawasim and the Beni Qitab, to whom he is hostile. The Jawasim he considers as his hereditary enemies and does not trust them. There is good security in his area and the robbers and marauders are chased and punished by the Shaikh himself. He is friendly towards His Majesty's Government and has frequently asked to be recognised as an independent Shaikh and to have a treaty with us. He is also very anxious that Petroleum Concessions, Limited, should take up an oil concession in his area, but so far the company has shown no real interest in it.

8. Mohammad bin Saqr

Born about 1913. The brother of Shaikh Sultan of Sharjah (No. 15), whom he represents in his absence. He is less parsimonious than the Shaikh and therefore less unpopular. He receives a larger allowance than his brothers, though it does not meet his expenditure. He owns some landed property in Sharjah and a date garden in Ras al Khaimah.

During the recent prolonged illness of his brother, he has proved a capable regent and has shown himself anxious to be on good terms with His Majesty's Government and other Trucial Coast Rulers.

9. Rashid bin Humaid, Shaikh

Ruler of Ajman. Born in 1904 and became ruler in 1928. He is tall with a long black beard, and a typical Bedouin in appearance. The saying that "he is too stupid to be dishonest" is probably true with him. He is even more parsimonious and avaricious than the average, but he is still not unjust and is liked by his people. He spends a lot of time in the desert and is on good terms with the other Trucial Shaikhs and Tribal Chiefs, with the exception of Shaikh Saqr bin Sultan, Chief of the Nai'm in Buraimi, who bitterly dislikes him. He gets around a great deal and visited Shaikh Suleiman bin Hamiyar of the Jebel Akhdhar two years ago, and has been in Bahrain, Muscat and Saudi Arabia more than once. His territory is secure and he chases robbers himself. He can read and write Arabic fairly well and listens to the news on the radio (when it is in working order). He frequently visits the B.O.A.C. fort and Royal Air Force station at Sharjah, merely in order to pick up anything he can in the way of services and supplies.

10. Rashid bin Sai'd bin Maktum, Shaikh

Eldest son of the Shaikh of Dubai (No. 11). Born about 1903. Is half literate and wild but not unattractive. He is married to the daughter of Hamdan bin Zayid, a former Ruler of Abu Dhabi. Adopted an uncompromising and defiant attitude towards His Majesty's Government during the Dubai-Abu Dhabi dispute, which he only changed after punitive measures against his father had been taken. He quickly becomes a victim to the intrigues of self-interested persons and, again like a Bedou, is always suspicious of good advice. He is generous to the

tribesmen and has a good deal of influence with them. He is much disliked by the Shaikh of Abu Dhabi.

11. Said bin Maktum, Shaikh

Ruler of Dubai. Born in 1882 and became the Ruler of Dubai in 1912. He is a Bedouin in appearance and at heart, and is generous. He is conscious of the traditional duties and responsibilities of an Arab Shaikh, though he has now allowed these to devolve on his eldest son, Rashid (No. 10); he himself spending his time hawking, shooting and travelling in the desert and at sea. He has recently become interested in cultivation and devotes a great deal of his time in attending to his gardens in Ras al Khaimah, where he has installed water pumps and made other improvements. Shaikh Said's relations with the other Trucial Shaikhs and the tribes are good. His dispute with the Shaikh of Abu Dhabi which absorbed most of his Shaikhdom's resources for three years has been finally settled. He is on particularly good terms with the Sultan of Muscat, whom he occasionally visits, and is also friendly with the Shaikhs of Qatar and Bahrain. He is well disposed towards His Majesty's Government and only persuaded to unwise courses occasionally by his son, and his brother, Juma (No. 4).

12. Saqr bin Mohammad bin Salim, Shaikh

Shaikh of Ras al Khaimah. Born in 1920. Seized power from Sultan bin Salim (No. 14) in February 1948, and was recognised as Ruler in August 1948.

This one-eyed young man has so far showed himself a strong Shaikh, strict, impartial, truthful and dignified. He attends to his business and security and good order prevail in his territory and crimes are uncommon. He is supported in his rule by his five brothers and is friendly with all the other local Shaikhs and tribes and loyal to His Majesty's Government. Although Sultan bin Salim made away with a large part of the funds of the Shaikhdom, Saqr has waived a number of taxes and reduced the customs duty.

13. Shakhbut bin Sultan bin Zayid, Shaikh

Ruler of Abu Dhabi. Born in 1904 and became Ruler in 1928. In many ways Shaikh Shakhbut is the best of the Trucial Coast Rulers to deal with. He is not an intriguer and does business in a straightforward way, though he is very stubborn. He can read Arabic but cannot write. He has full authority over his people and the tribes and enjoys the respect of other Shaikhs, which he indeed deserves; although he is parsimonious, he does not extort nor sell justice. He is fair in judgment. Security in his territory is exemplary.

Shaikh Shakhbut looks delicate, he has very small bones and may be consumptive; but he has an air of quiet dignity about him striking even in an Arab Shaikh. After the death of his first wife, he took a second one, a young girl, one Hamdah bint Ahmad bin Khalaf bin Utaibah, who left him after one night and never returned. Last year (1947) he married the daughter of Hamid bin Buti, his maternal uncle. He has just (August 1948) also married a young Bedouin girl whom he casually met near his fort.

Shaikh Shakhbut is well disposed towards the British Government and tries to avoid incurring its displeasure. He is on ostensibly friendly terms with the other Rulers and tribes, but dislikes the Ruler of Dubai and his son, because of their aggression against

him. He seldom leaves Abu Dhabi except to go to Abu Dhabi Islands and Buraimi occasionally.

His mother, Salamah bint Buti, is said to have great influence over him. He has two sons, Said and Sultan. The former is a wretched creature, a drunkard, and has chronic syphilis. The latter is still very young.

14. Sultan bin Salim al Qasimi

Ex-Shaikh of Ras al Khaimah. Born in 1891. Like his cousin, the Shaikh of Sharjah, Sultan bin Salim is not of a pleasant character—thoroughly untrustworthy and intriguing. He neglected the interests of his Shaikhdom for years in order to squeeze money out of the people to aggrandise himself through trade. In February 1948, his nephew, Shaikh Saqr bin Mohammad bin Salim (No. 12), seized power with the people of Ras al Khaimah and the Khawatir tribe during Sultan bin Salim's absence in Dubai. He has not ceased unsuccessfully to intrigue and is at present, practically speaking, an outlaw. He is a wild creature, liable to take violent courses, one of which obliged His Majesty's Government to impose upon him a fine and a year exile in Muscat. The year having been completed he is now once more living in Trucial Coast, dividing his time between Sharjah, Dubai, and his date gardens in the Wadi al Qor.

15. Sultan bin Saqr al Qasimi, Shaikh

Shaikh of Sharjah. Born in 1906 and became Shaikh in 1924 after the deposition of Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmad (No. 5). He himself was too frightened at the time to take any part in the struggle for the occupation of Sharjah, which was mainly brought about by his father-in-law, Shaikh Abdur Rahman bin Mohammad of Hira.

Shaikh Sultan has a thoroughly nasty character. He is an intriguer, obstinate, self-conceited, a liar, selfish and mean. Like all the Qasimis, his word is not to be trusted. He is fond of pomp and show, and, for a Trucial Shaikh, is well educated in Arabic and speaks it gracefully. He exercises no authority over the tribes in his area and his territory is most insecure. He is at odds with most of his relations. He has a well-organised intelligence service and he does spend money on this, employing all sorts of people to supply him with news. His wretched subjects dislike him since he does nothing for their welfare and stops at nothing to squeeze money from them. Suffers from diabetes and takes insulin. In 1949 he became gravely ill and left for Bombay where he has undergone a series of major operations, which so far have failed to restore his health. His brother Mohammad (No. 8) is acting as regent in his absence.

The Shaikh has seven sons; only two of whom, Saqr and Khalid, are grown up. The former represents his father when he and his uncle, Mohammad (No. 8), are absent from Sharjah. He used to drink heavily, but is now said to have given it up. He enjoys some local popularity and is considered to be more modern in outlook than his uncle Shaikh Mohammad (No. 8) for which reason he would enjoy the support of most of the younger Arabs if the question of the succession were to arise through the death of Shaikh Sultan.

16. Zayid bin Sultan

Born about 1908. Brother of the Shaikh of Abu Dhabi, he has a similar character to that of his brother Hazza' (No. 3), and probably a stronger one. He exercises a very great influence with the tribesmen.

CHAPTER II.—SAUDI ARABIA

ES 1011/1

No. 5

SAUDI ARABIA: ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 1949

Mr. Trott to Mr. McNeil. (Received 28th February)

(No. 45. Confidential) *Jedda,*
Sir, *22nd February, 1950.*

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith my annual review of events in Saudi Arabia during the year 1949, for the drafting of which I am indebted to Mr. McCarthy.

I am sending copies of this despatch and its enclosure to the head of the British Middle East Office, the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, the Governor-General of the Sudan and the Governor and Commander-in-chief, Aden.

I have, &c.
A. C. TROTT.

Enclosure in No. 5

Internal Affairs

Throughout 1949 King Ibn Saud remained the undisputed master of Saudi Arabia. With advancing age and failing health, he was no longer, however, able to ensure that the patriarchal system of government which he had imposed on the country continued to satisfy all the needs of a people whom sudden wealth and the impact of the outside world had presented with problems of whose very nature he and they were largely ignorant; nor had he the flexibility of youth to enable him to adapt himself to changing conditions and initiate reforms in the administration of the country or the Muslim law on which it has hitherto been based. Neither he nor his principal lieutenants, the ailing and bibulous Minister of Finance and the Amir Saud bin Jiluwi, Governor of the oil-bearing province of Hasa, showed any signs of realising that a country with the wealth and economic importance that this country had attained could not get along indefinitely with an administration so rudimentary and a centralisation so complete that any question of importance had to be decided by one of the three and many by His Majesty himself. Little was done to correct the practical shortcomings of the old machinery of government and the prevalent graft, corruption and malpractices. To the more intelligent Saudis the need for retrenchment and reform became

increasingly clear, and, by the end of 1949, grave financial crisis had indeed led to the appointment of a new Deputy Minister of Finance. Even the latter, however, although he was clearly intended to act as a new broom, hesitated to place a national balance sheet before the King, who, he thought, would not understand or interest himself in it. Similarly, the Crown Prince and the Viceroy of the Hejaz, like all the rest of the King's advisers, did nothing particular. Most thinking Saudis seemed resigned to expecting little real reform during the life-time of the present King, and to be pinning their hopes on the possibility of better administration being established by his successor.

2. One consequence of the lack of efficient administration which proved to be of serious immediate significance was the Government's financial crisis. With a *per capita* revenue in foreign exchange greater than ever before, the Saudi Arabian Government (as opposed to the people, who were relatively prosperous) were by the end of the year in debt to the extent of about a third of Saudi Arabia's annual income. There were many causes for this. The Royal family's extravagance was perhaps the greatest; it has been estimated that their monthly expenditure is over £400,000. Construction projects more ambitious than economic absorbed much of the revenue; the lack of any effective currency or import controls caused national wealth to leave the country in exchange for motor cars and luxuries, while the absence of internal taxation deprived the Administration of any regular sources of internal revenue. The currency remained unreformed and unstable, and high officials and others continued to amass considerable fortunes, as often by speculation as by private commercial activity. Contracts made with foreign firms were often wasteful from the Saudi point of view, *e.g.*, the "cost plus" contract by which an American constructional firm made vast profits. Meanwhile, Government officials, the army and even the police were three months and often more in arrears with their pay. The removal from effective power of the principal assistant to the Minister of Finance and

the installation in his place and with wide powers of an undoubtedly efficient successor showed, at the end of the year, that the Government were at last seriously alarmed, but it remained questionable whether basic remedies could be applied during the present King's lifetime, or whether a competent executive, even if honest, could maintain the initial impetus of his efforts at reform.

3. Development and construction continued haphazardly. The Arabian-American Oil Company had stabilised their daily production at the high figure of 500,000 barrels of crude oil before the fall in world prices caused them to restrict production and reduce, though not cease, development and exploration. The Pacific Western Oil Company agreed, however, in February to pay \$2 million and annual minimum royalties of \$1 million for exploiting the Saudi Arabian share of the neutral zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and these payments more than offset the fall in the Arabian-American Oil Company's royalties. The deep-water jetties at Jedda and Dammam, and the airports at Jedda and Riyadh were approaching completion, progress had been made with the Jedda water supply, and various ambitious plans for electrification, irrigation, agricultural development and mining, and for the improvement of communications, hospitals and schools were under consideration and in some cases approved. In general it cannot, however, be said that the country's real needs in regard to development had been properly considered; money would usually have been better spent on foreign advisers, public health, education and agricultural development, and sound technical advice from engineering specialists than on some of the undertakings, often of doubtful value and managed by incompetent individuals, on which it was lavished, not to mention the building of palaces at Riyadh, Mecca and elsewhere for the King's enormous family. A notable example was the continued reluctance of the Government to act on the comprehensive proposals of the British health experts they employ and to overhaul and remodel their rudimentary health services, whose inadequacy was responsible for the development of a virulent small-pox epidemic claiming several hundred victims after the pilgrimage. The desire of the Government to limit contact between their subjects and the outside world, and the vested interests of groups and individuals combined to pre-

vent more than a handful of Saudi Arabian students and technicians from going abroad for technical and specialist training, though numbers of Saudi Arabian military and aviation trainees were by the end of the year both in the United States and in the United Kingdom.

4. The pilgrimage in 1949 was of approximately the same size as in 1948; about 100,000 pilgrims arrived in the Hejaz by sea and air and over 350,000 people, foreign and Saudi, were said to have attended the principal ceremonies at Mecca and Arafat. By Saudi Arabian standards it was well organised, and the inevitable delays in sailings, the usual proportion of destitute pilgrims who had been parted from their meagre savings, and the scandalous small-pox epidemic were blemishes which marred the aftermath rather than the pilgrimage itself.

5. Internal security remained excellent; no important raiding among Bedouin came to the attention of His Majesty's Embassy, and even the smuggling of slaves into Saudi Arabia seemed by the end of the year to be on a smaller scale than usual. It was, however, noticeable that in the Hejaz, where hands are apparently no longer cut off for theft, petty thieving and in particular thefts of alcohol from foreigners were on the increase; information suggests, however, that in Hasa, where the old savage penalties are still paid, the degeneration was less noticeable. Both His Majesty's Embassy and the United States Embassy were in fact preoccupied during 1949 less with internal law and order than with the applicability of Muslim law to their nationals. The Saudi Arabian Government, who are wisely reluctant to punish any foreigner in their own fashion, adopted to an increasing extent during 1949 the alternative of expelling any foreigner to whom they took objection without reason given, and several British subjects had accordingly to leave the country at short notice.

6. Despite the continued efforts of the British Military Mission, the army became little more effective as a force during the year under review. Progress was handicapped by the poor human material attracted in earlier years by the low pay offered, the lack of good officers and of equipment, the general backwardness and inexperience of those concerned, and the absence of the best units in Palestine and Egypt. Even when the arms' embargo had been completely raised and ample supplies

were available there was little improvement, largely owing to the obstinacy and miserliness of the Minister of Defence, who hoards equipment rather than issue it, but whose removal, as he is one of Ibn Saud's favourite sons, is unlikely. Morale in the army declined when, from autumn onwards, their pay failed to materialise, and what improvement there was in the year under review, notably in turn-out and in training officers and n.c.o.s, reflects great credit on the British Military Mission, who have carried out a hard task on a small budget and in exasperating conditions, with admirable patience and tact. The British Civil Air Training Mission, whose scope is of course not so wide, had perhaps more success in their field and were able in August to send ten pupil pilots to the United Kingdom for advanced training. Preliminary reports on their progress there were encouraging.

7. In spite of the shortcomings of the Minister of Defence and various practical difficulties, Trans-World Airlines continued to operate the Saudi Arabian Government's Dakota aircraft efficiently and safely throughout the year. Both the Dakota aircraft and five Bristol Wayfarers, which the Minister purchased and which are flown and maintained by British and Egyptian personnel, flew intensively and profitably during the pilgrimage season. At all other times, however, both groups of aircraft spent more time standing by for members of the Royal family than in the air, and in the case of the Bristol aircraft, which the Minister personally controls, it proved difficult to alter his conviction that an aircraft should be kept immobile rather than worn out in flying.

Foreign Affairs

8. As Israel became, and was seen by most Arabs to become, a reality which could not be wished away, the Saudi Arabian Government resigned themselves to its existence in practice while maintaining their formal hostility to Zionism and their practical ban on the entry of Jews to this country. When first approached, the Saudi Arabian Government refused to have any contacts with the Economic Survey Mission; when they subsequently appeared disposed to revise their attitude, that body had in the meantime decided that there was nothing useful that Saudi Arabia could contribute to their plans.

9. With less calls on his attention from that quarter, His Majesty tended from

June onwards to follow the pointing finger of Fuad Bey Hamza and watch with increasing concern the policy and activities of the Hashemite rulers of Jordan and Iraq. Complaints against King Abdullah had been rare since the time of the latter's spectacular visit to Riyadh in 1948, but in the summer of 1949 His Majesty's Embassy again became the recipient of Ibn Saud's fears and it was alleged that King Abdullah had likened the Saudi régime to the Jewish occupation of Palestine. Soon, however, it was Iraqi plans for union with Syria which became Ibn Saud's principal preoccupation until the disappearance of Hinnawi appeared to have postponed the danger of Hashemite encirclement. As usual, the King maintained that it was for His Majesty's Government to curb their alleged puppets, and His Majesty's Embassy received frequent appeals from him to moderate Iraqi policy towards Syria despite our reiterated assurances that we were strongly opposed to the use of force by one Middle East country against another and would naturally use all our influence to prevent any such happening. In December the United States Government replied to similar appeals with the assurance that they would continue to make it clear to the States concerned that it would be contrary to their policy (and that of His Majesty's Government) for any State to take aggressive measures. At the same time, Ibn Saud took direct counter-measures by promising a dollar loan to Syria (the dollars for which were in the event dissipated within Saudi Arabia), by intrigue and propaganda, and, almost certainly, by bribery to prevent any union of Syria and Iraq. As a consequence of this policy Saudi Arabia felt obliged to keep very closely in line with Egypt.

10. Preoccupation with possible designs by his northern neighbours, coupled with a growing realisation of the Russian menace and with genuine goodwill towards the United Kingdom and the United States, led Ibn Saud to press both His Majesty's Government and the United States Government for a reply to his proposals, made late in 1948, for a tripartite defensive treaty. His Majesty's Government were not prepared to proceed with the matter at the time, but it was agreed that a British reconnaissance party should visit Saudi Arabia in order to examine the strategic needs of the two Governments. Ibn Saud begged that if we were not prepared to conclude a treaty we should at least make it formally clear that we would

not tolerate a Hashemite attack or supply him with the arms which he required to put him on an equal footing. A brief visit to Saudi Arabian airfields was made by the British party in August, and a little later a large United States military party visited Dhahran and other strategic areas. No reports by either party had been communicated to the King by the end of 1949. Earlier in the year he had, however, received a practical expression of the United States Government's strategic interest in Saudi Arabia when they requested the right to continue to maintain a United States Air Force unit at Dhahran after that air-base, built and operated by the United States Government, had reverted to the Saudi Arabian Government at the end of March; these facilities were, after considerable negotiation, conceded for a period up to June 1950.

11. General relations between His Majesty's Government and the Saudi Arabian Government and the United States Government and the Saudi Arabian Government remained good. It was evident that the Saudi Arabian Government, though formally binding themselves to act as the Arab League might decide, were unlikely to take any special initiative in the question of the former Italian colonies. When the ex-Mufti came to perform the pilgrimage he was not permitted to indulge in political activities, and Rashid Ali remained harmlessly with the King. The honours paid to the Pakistan Minister of the Interior during his visit here, and prominent Saudi representation at the first International Islamic Economic Conference at Karachi in November, evinced Saudi sympathy for Pakistan as opposed to India, but nothing was done to embarrass His Majesty's Government in their relations with the two Dominions. Despite appeals from the Imam to Ibn Saud, the Saudi Arabian Government's attitude in the

dispute between the United Kingdom and the Yemen remained entirely correct. In 1949, as in 1948, Palestine was not allowed to impair Saudi Arabia's relationship with either His Majesty's Government or the United States Government.

12. It was in the Persian Gulf area that there arose the most difficult problems affecting Anglo-Saudi relations. By the close of the year it had become clear that a division of the sea-bed could no longer be postponed (His Majesty's Government had in the meantime protested against the Saudi Arabian Government's proclamation of a 6-mile limit of territorial waters); and the beginning of oil activities in the Kuwait neutral zone appeared also to demand some administrative arrangements in the latter. An even more complicated problem had already arisen when as a sequel to an incursion by a party from the Arabian American Oil Company into Abu Dhabi territory, negotiations were started to endeavour to settle the long outstanding question of the definition of the south-eastern frontiers of Saudi Arabia. His Majesty's Government's firm rejection of the extravagant territorial claims then made by the Saudi Arabian Government on the territories of Shaikhdoms under British protection in the Persian Gulf did not affect the satisfactory state of Anglo-Saudi relations in general. Repeated protestations by the King showed them to be, so far as he was concerned, unimpaired. He was clearly pleased by the reception given to the Amir Mansour during an official visit to England during the summer. Similarly, his decision at the end of 1949 to remain in the Hejaz for the forthcoming visit of the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean Fleet, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh showed the lengths to which he is prepared to go to give public evidence of his friendship.

ES 1782/15

No. 6

THE PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEJAZ DURING 1949

Mr. Trott to Mr. Younger. (Received 14th July)

(No. 92. Confidential) *Jedda,*
Sir, *28th June, 1950.*

With reference to Mr. Scott-Fox's despatch No. 185 (531/6/49) of 20th October, 1949, I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying report on the

Pilgrimage to the Holy Places of the Hejaz during the year 1949, the Muslim year 1368 A.H.

2. I am sending a copy of this despatch and its enclosures to the Head of the British Middle East Office, and I should be grateful

if further copies could be sent on my behalf to the High Commissioners for the United Kingdom at Colombo, Karachi, New Delhi, Pretoria, and in East Africa, His Majesty's Representative at Middle East posts and at Djakarta (Batavia), Manila, Paris and Addis Ababa, the Governor-General of the Sudan, the Commissioner-General in South-East Asia, the Governors of Aden, British Somaliland, the Gold Coast, Kenya, Malaya, Nigeria, Tanganyika and Uganda, the Chief Administrators of Cyrenaica, Eritrea and the Tripolitania, the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and the Consul-General at Jerusalem.

I have, &c.

A. C. TROTT.

Enclosure in No. 6

The Pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina in 1949

The Pilgrimage in 1949 was of approximately the same size as that of 1948. Administratively the story was the customary one of good intentions and imperfect performance; congestion at the port of arrival and detention of pilgrims in Jeddah for two or three days owing to inadequate transport facilities—a frequent cause of discontent for pilgrims at the outset of their pilgrimage and one which affected Sudanis in particular during 1949—occurred as usual, and the fact that the professional pilgrim guides, the Mutawwifin, had not received their salaries from the Government for several months led to importunity from the guides at the pilgrims' expense and did not increase the efficiency or reliability of a class whose reputation has never been one of selfless service to their wards. Arrangements for the actual pilgrimage to Arafat were better than in previous years and the Government contributed to a reduction in the death rate by the construction of shelters along the road from Mecca and by the provision of piped water both *en route* and at Arafat itself; at the same time, however, an unparalleled concentration of cars on the narrow road from Mecca to Arafat offset in inconvenience the improvement in facilities there, and even the Viceroy of the Hejaz found himself involved for four hours in a resultant traffic jam. Though first aid was available to pilgrims from both the Saudi Arabian authorities and the foreign medical missions in the Hejaz, the local medical facilities in general were inadequate in scope and quality, and an epidemic, made more

serious by the incapacity of the authorities to deal with it, developed both among pilgrims and the local population shortly after the pilgrimage itself.

2. Extortion is inseparable from the pilgrimage and the exorbitant prices normally charged to pilgrims were increased still more by the high level of prices generally which resulted from the presence in the Hejaz of King Ibn Saud and his court for a total period of over four months. Rents, which are phenomenally high in Jeddah and Mecca to residents, are far higher still to pilgrims or persons connected with the pilgrimage who hire accommodation at Mecca and Medina for the few months of the pilgrimage season only, and even those who can afford accommodation at a high cost must expect to share their dirty and dilapidated rooms with a dozen others in a city whose normal population is perhaps 100,000 and which has in addition 100,000 foreign and another 200,000 Saudi visitors during the peak of the pilgrimage. The price of meat rose to 18s. a kilogram, as opposed to its off-season price of about 7s., potatoes to 5s., rice to 2s. 6d., while eggs varied between 7d. and 9d. apiece from the off-season price of 3d. or 4d. These prices, taken with the charges, four or five times more than those non-pilgrims have to pay, for such services as ferrying at the port and "bus" services between the towns of the Hejaz, had their inevitable result in large numbers of destitute pilgrims, chiefly Indians and Filipinos, who had spent their life savings before they were able to get passages away from their holy land. All this was, however, to be expected, and little improvement is possible, despite the vocal protests of Muslim bodies in Malaya, Indonesia and elsewhere, unless it becomes evident that the pilgrimage is decreasing in numbers as a direct result of the extortions, or other Governments follow the Egyptian example of deliberate limitation of the pilgrimage to a prescribed maximum of healthy persons with adequate means. It should in fairness be added that, apart from the foregoing, little evidence of individual fraud came to the embassy's attention and that, where it occurred, it seems to have been as often by one pilgrim against less wary fellow pilgrims as by a Hejazi.

3. According to the more reliable of the two sets of official figures issued at the end of the pilgrimage by the Saudi Arabian Government a total of 99,069 foreign pilgrims attended, 80,271 by sea, 11,189 by air and 7,609 overland. Details of origin are

given at Appendix A but the figures should be treated with considerable reserve: many pilgrims came overland before the pilgrimage season to work and without documents and without paying their pilgrimage dues, thereby escaping both the payment of dues and inclusion in the official statistics of foreign pilgrims. Some non-Saudi Arabs remain here both to work and attend the pilgrimage for several years before deciding to return to their own countries. They also are not included in the total of foreign pilgrims.

Pilgrimage Revenue

4. The pilgrimage dues were reduced for the year 1949 from £36 10s. to £28, so that the ordinary pilgrims paid a total of £33 6s. including quarantine and ferrying dues instead of the £41 16s. paid in previous years. To this was added the minimum compulsory charges for transport within the Hejaz, Jeddah-Mecca-Arafat-Mecca-Jeddah by "fourth class" lorry of £2 10s.: the pilgrimage to Medina being optional, the charges for the journey to Medina, whether from Mecca or from Jeddah, are not compulsory. Malayan and Indonesian pilgrims as usual paid an additional £20 in return for the housing and other services which are by custom provided by their mutawwif, where other pilgrims have to fend for themselves. The cancellation after 1948 of special exemption from dues of poor West Africans and of reduced fees for Sudanis was in 1949 offset to some extent by the exemption from dues of all pilgrims coming by direct—and in practice indirect—routes from the famine-stricken Hadhramaut, a concession which Ibn Saud himself is said to have initiated. The reduction of dues did not materially affect the total amount of foreign exchange which the average pilgrim brought to the country, however, since pilgrims who had saved throughout most of their lives to come on pilgrimage tended to spend locally what would otherwise have gone towards the higher dues of earlier years. No official statistics in this connexion are available and in the absence of a budget for the Islamic year 1369 no deduction can be made from governmental balance sheets; the European banking houses estimate that, as in 1948, the average pilgrim brought about £100 to the Hejaz and that the country's gain in foreign exchange was once more about £10 million.

5. Pre-collection of pilgrimage dues at the ports of embarkation was arranged by most Governments, and the Saudi Arabian

Government therefore received payment from the administrations concerned in bulk in respect of Sudanis, British West African and other West African pilgrims (including those from French West Africa) setting out from British territory, Aden, Malaya and Indonesia. India once more made no effort at pre-collection and most Indian pilgrims paid their dues in rupee notes on arrival; the Government of Pakistan pre-collected the dues of pilgrims who came by the later sailings. A certain amount of difficulty was caused by French West Africans who arrived overland in the Sudan and at Jeddah either from the Sudan or by air from West Africa with cheques in French Equatorial francs which no one, Government or banks, was at first inclined to accept, and by pilgrims arriving from West African territories with sterling drafts not endorsed as negotiable outside the sterling area. The confusion caused by the Filipino pilgrims, both as regards dues and in all other matters, was so great that their pilgrimage is dealt with separately below. Satisfactory arrangements were made in most cases with the countries of origin for the repatriation of foreign bank notes which pilgrims especially from Egypt, the Sudan, India and Pakistan, either spent or exchanged for their living expenses in the Hejaz and the payment of dues.

Transport to the Hejaz

6. The principal shipping companies engaged in the transport of pilgrims during 1949 were the Blue Funnel Line (for pilgrims from Malaya), the Rotterdam Lloyd and Dutch Blue Funnel Lines (Indonesia), the Haj and Mogul Lines (India and Pakistan), the Kedivial Mail Line (Egypt and the Sudan), Messrs. A. Besse and Sons and the Kedivial Mail Line (for pilgrims from the Red Sea and East African territories) and the Messageries Maritimes for pilgrims from French North Africa. Various vessels were chartered for the transport of groups of pilgrims from other areas.

7. The record number of pilgrims who arrived by air were carried by the same companies as in 1948 with the addition of special series of charter flights by the British Overseas Airways Corporation (through their subsidiary Aden Airways), T.A.I., K.L.M. and Air France. Pakair also participated before their suspension of operations generally, and the fact that the now defunct Suidair International Airways caused a sensation and a lot of trouble to His Majesty's Embassy by bringing a number of

Jews bound for Israel to Jedda in order to drop two Muslim passengers there did not prevent their continued participation in a traffic which, so far as wealthier Muslims are concerned, is likely to grow in the future. There is an interesting comparison to be made between the hordes of Muslims who arrive in the Hejaz after very wearing sea and land voyages, often before the month of Ramadhan, and spend several months of discomfort and hardship in the Hejaz, and the wealthier and possibly less fervent Muslims who are getting into the way of arriving by air a few days before the pilgrimage and leaving a few days after it. Should air travel become cheaper and the number of Muslims able to attend the pilgrimage by air grow, it may be that in future years the average pilgrim will, by virtue of his shorter stay in the country, spend less.

8. The increase in charter pilgrimage flights brought its own problems to Jedda airfield which, though possessing good runways, still lacked proper night flying facilities and any airfield administration or servicing organisation worthy of the name. It was due primarily to the disinterested efforts of the Trans-World Airways manager and deputy manager of Saudi Arabian Air Lines (seconded from Trans-World Airways), who took on themselves the responsibility of running the airfield, that congestion due to the absence of ground facilities and accidents to the non-existence of flying control, were avoided.

9. The report on the 1947 and 1948 pilgrimages (Document No. 15 in Part 3 of this Correspondence) stressed the great difficulties which are caused to all concerned except local merchants because many pilgrims, even apart from those who elect to arrive here before Ramadhan, have to spend extended periods in Saudi Arabia owing to the difficulty of ensuring sea passages. During 1949 the truth of this was demonstrated afresh; many Indian and Pakistani pilgrims became destitute through having to remain here too long as well as through other causes—some indeed did not leave until the spring of 1950—and even pilgrims with return tickets to the Sudan and Somaliland became discontented, and in some cases destitute, through the failure of two at least of the shipping companies concerned to provide early passages for return ticket holders. Once more it is to be hoped that the Governments concerned will

consider binding shipping companies in firm agreements in the matter and, if necessary, providing for penalties in the event of avoidable failure to fulfil undertakings in regard to return sailings. The difficulties to pilgrims and those administering them resulting from lengthy stays in the Hejaz are well set out in Appendix B⁽¹⁾ to this report, a copy of an exposition of the problems in question written during the 1949 pilgrimage season by the Malay Pilgrimage Commissioner in the Hejaz, and from the administrative point of view if not that of the more devout Muslim, it is to be hoped that sailings before the month of Ramadhan, for one thing, will be limited by the Governments concerned.

Internal Transport

10. The inadequacy of the arrangements for getting pilgrims away to Mecca from Jedda immediately after their arrival has already been mentioned. There were similar difficulties in getting pilgrims away from Arafat and Muna after the ceremonies there and various other hitches due principally to the great numbers attending the pilgrimage and the inadequacy of the primitive roads rather than that of the vehicles to cope with the traffic. On the whole, however, the Arab Car Company's arrangements were adequate. The fares charged remain exorbitant, especially by comparison with those which residents of the Hejaz normally pay, and complaints are not lacking about discrimination at the pilgrims' expense. A system of priorities similar to that operated in previous years ensured that most pilgrims returned to Jedda as and when sea or air transport was expected to be ready to take them away, and congestion at Jedda after the pilgrimage was, on the whole, avoided.

Whereas nearly all air companies are permitted to bring pilgrims to the Hejaz, air transport of pilgrims within the country is the monopoly of the Saudi Arabian Airlines, and the latter carried many hundreds of pilgrims between Jedda and Medina during the season, often carrying as many as fifty-six passengers in each Wayfarer and over thirty per Dakota on the comparatively short flight between the two towns.

Day of Arafat

11. King Ibn Saud, who led the pilgrimage to Mecca (though he did not go to Medina, a city he has never visited), was present among the reported total of 450,000

⁽¹⁾ Not printed.

pilgrims, native and foreign, who were present at Arafat and later Muna. The water supply was barely adequate but the system of stand pipes which broke down in 1948 operated satisfactorily on this occasion. According to expectation and to the moon the day should have been 1st October but for some reason not satisfactorily explained it was announced a few days in advance that it would in fact be 2nd October. The weather was hot but not exceptionally trying for the time of year; there were no reports of disorder. According to the Department of Pilgrimage Affairs, deaths during the four days at Arafat and Muna totalled 120, a not excessive figure considering the heat, the age of many of the pilgrims and—a factor of some importance—the emotional strain of the pilgrimage and the conscious belief of many of the older pilgrims that to die in the Holy Land is the greatest good fortune to which they can attain.

12. Immediately after the four days the pilgrimage was declared clean of infectious diseases; a customary formality which, it was soon obvious, was founded on even less fact than usual.

Inward Quarantine

13. Though the volume of criticism of the Saudi Arabian Quarantine Department has been mounting steadily and its abolition and replacement by the beginnings of a health service have been both advocated and planned in detail by the Saudi Arabian Government's British Health Adviser, the pilgrimage found the Quarantine Department and the provisions it had made for the annual influx as unsatisfactory as ever. As in previous years such protection to Saudi Arabia against the introduction of epidemics and to the outside world against their development there as could be afforded consisted of the varying degrees of supervision and quarantine at the various ports of embarkation. The Saudi Arabian authorities, not without some prodding and correction from their British adviser along the lines of international practice, ordered immunisation against smallpox, cholera, and typhus, and against yellow fever for those coming from areas internationally regarded as endemic, and His Majesty's Embassy informed all British authorities concerned that typhoid should be added to the list. The Sudan Government arranged for quarantine inspection at Suakin; the Malayan Government made their usual arrangements also, including routine calls by pilgrim ships at Kamaran for quarantine

clearance. So far as the embassy are aware, most Governments provided against communicable diseases according to international requirements, though the arrangements were in a number of cases imperfect as regards the quality of immunisation and the number of medical staff aboard pilgrim ships; the glaring sins of omission of the Philippine authorities were outstanding in this respect and receive separate treatment below.

14. Inspection on arrival by the Saudi Arabian Quarantine authorities was as lax as in earlier years, and the efficiency and keenness of the few staff available were not the greater for the failure of the Government to pay them their salaries.

Health and Medical Services

15. Health during the early stages of the season was tolerably good, given the age of many of the pilgrims and the unsanitary conditions which are inseparable from the concentration of large numbers of people in the towns of the Hejaz. Numbers of deaths varied widely according to the nationality and ages of the various groups of pilgrims and the rigours of the journey they had undergone. Whereas, for instance, the Sudan Medical Mission reported only thirteen deaths known to them out of 5,075 Sudani and Takruni pilgrims, the Saudi Arabian authorities notified the embassy of the deaths of ninety-three Malays during a three-months period of the season; deaths among Indians and Pakistanis were, as always, numerous, and among the Turks heavy since most of the Turkish contingents were exceptionally elderly men. Malaria was more widespread than in most years; there were the usual limited outbreaks of such diseases as dysentery and localised smallpox, together with at least one case of cerebro-spinal meningitis among Sudani pilgrims.

16. Shortly after the pilgrimage smallpox became more widespread than usual and by the end of 1949 an epidemic of a particularly virulent kind was raging in Mecca and Jedda. The Saudi Arabian authorities maintained that it had been brought into the country by Filipino pilgrims but it is almost certain that it was in origin an unusually widespread outbreak of the smallpox endemic in this country and among the Bedouin generally (outbreaks were reported in Jordan and Palestine at almost the same time). The disease was able to get a strong hold because the Syrian doctors of the Quarantine Department proved incapable

of taking any steps to deal with it—one of them said quite frankly to the British doctor who tried to press him to act and who eventually stopped the epidemic that “they did not treat smallpox in Saudi Arabia”—by the failure of the authorities in the early stages to provide any money or supplies, by the lack of trained personnel, and by the unsanitary conditions in which most of the population and pilgrims were living. The Filipino pilgrims were the most prominent victims and it is estimated that over 200—some 10 per cent.—died because of their weakened condition when the epidemic attacked them; the townspeople suffered also, however, and though even approximate figures are lacking it is believed that the deaths among them must have been numbered in hundreds. Full accounts of the epidemic have been given elsewhere (see correspondence ending with Jedda letter No. 1794/63/50 of 9th May), but it should be emphasised in this report that the proportions the epidemic assumed resulted from the complete incapacity of the Quarantine Department and their incompetent doctors to tackle what was, by Western standards, a manageable situation and that complete chaos would have been inevitable if, in the absence of even a quarantine hospital, more than one disease had assumed epidemic proportions, an ever-present possibility in the pilgrimage.

Outward Quarantine

17. Despite the smallpox epidemic, which was joined and succeeded by an outbreak of chickenpox, the Saudi Arabian Government, who had not admitted to the smallpox until concealment became impossible, did not declare the pilgrimage unclean. The Egyptian Government subjected all pilgrims returning to Egypt to the usual rigorous quarantine at Tor and insisted on recent vaccination in the case of other travellers. The Sudan authorities arranged through their medical missions for fresh vaccination of returning pilgrims to Jedda where necessary, and tightened up the quarantine procedure at Suakin. Other Governments took similar action, according to circumstances, and the Indian Consul took the drastic action of ordering all pilgrimage ships bound for India to call at Kamaran, which is technically unnecessary when the pilgrimage is officially clean, though not without precedent. This did not, however, prevent infectious diseases from spreading to some of the countries of origin of the pilgrims; the weekly fasciculus of the *World*

Health dated 25th November, 1949, shows for example that cases of smallpox originating at Jedda had been reported at Singapore and the Director of Quarantine at Jedda received a formal protest from the captain of the Mogul Line s.s. *Rizwani* because, after leaving Jedda with 1,069 pilgrims on 1st December with a clean bill of health, fourteen cases of smallpox and, by 22nd December, fifty-eight cases of chickenpox had developed amongst his passengers.

Medical Missions

18. Opposition to the introduction into the Hejaz of Medical Missions for the pilgrims by foreign Governments seems to have died away completely. The Netherlands East Indies Medical Mission and Dispensary and the Pakistan Dispensary are, of course, permanently established here and the Sudan, French North African and Egyptian Medical Missions have all for varying periods of years come here for the season. In 1949 the Malayan authorities in Malaya sent a medical officer with a small staff to Mecca for the second year in succession. All these bodies did very good work, the more valuable because of the few Saudi facilities. The scale of their operations was considerable; the Sudan Medical Mission saw 7,698 out-patients, of whom nearly 3,000 were fresh cases, and admitted thirty-six in-patients, while the Government of Malaya dispensary, while much smaller and handicapped by the limited scale on which it was supplied with equipment and drugs, treated 275 pilgrims. It should be added that whereas the Sudan, French North African, Egyptian and Malayan Medical Missions treat primarily pilgrims and only remain for the season they also treat local residents who go to them, and that the permanent dispensaries and the United States Embassy clinic (which serves the Filipino pilgrims *inter alia*) minister to the local population to such an extent throughout the year that they are not mere dispensaries but are more in the nature of small, voluntary clinics of a higher standard than the public hospitals of the Saudi Arabian Government.

Philippine Pilgrimage

19. The story of the Filipinos is in so many respects an example of how not to handle the pilgrimage that it merits separate treatment. The Philippine Government appeared to have taken no interest in its

conduct or organisation and its management was left to local Muslim leaders and private speculators, one of whom at least seems to have been more concerned with the kudos to be gained against the forthcoming elections in the Philippines than in the welfare of his charges all of whom, like the pilgrims themselves to some extent, displayed a high degree of irresponsibility throughout. Though the United States Embassy at Jedda, who, when requested by the Philippine Government charged themselves with Philippine interests in Saudi Arabia, had notified the Philippine authorities through the United States Embassy at Manila of the details of the pilgrimage tariff and of the Saudi Arabian Government's requirements generally, the Philippine Government had made no effort either to pre-collect the minimum dues payable or to ensure instead that each pilgrim had sufficient money for the journey and his reasonable expenses. There seems to have been no effective check on stowaways, so that some 600 pilgrims arrived without having paid either dues or passage money or being in a position to do so. International health requirements and the minimum immunisations demanded by the Saudi Arabian Government were largely ignored, and where immunisation was arranged it was done so badly that it proved in many cases to be valueless. In the opinion of members of the United States Embassy at Jedda the Philippine Government showed a lamentable lack of interest in their pilgrims at Jedda even when their troubles were making many difficulties and a lot of work for the embassy, and it is understood that some strongly-worded telegrams, threatening, *inter alia*, that the embassy could not continue to be responsible for the interests of the Philippine Government in Saudi Arabia unless that Government showed a greater sense of responsibility in the matter, had to be despatched before the Philippine Government took such steps as the situation demanded of them.

20. The first of the two ships carrying Filipinos, the *Chung Hsing*, a Chinese vessel hastily transferred to Hong Kong registry but under charter to the Madrigal Shipping Company in the Philippines, arrived at Jedda with some 2,000 pilgrims on board. While at sea the organisers arbitrarily appointed a local firm as ship's agents a feat which did not predispose the firm concerned to special exertions on behalf of the master when trouble ensued. On arrival the pilgrims were either unable or unwilling to pay the heavy dues the Saudi Arabian Government demanded, and re-

mained on board to the embarrassment of the ship and the Saudi Arabian Government alike. Eventually the authorities allowed the pilgrims to disembark on a written guarantee from the twenty-two Filipino pilgrim sheiks among the party, and on condition that each pilgrim paid his dues immediately. Once ashore, however, the pilgrims evaded the Pilgrimage Control and other port authorities and scattered, and some 200 succeeded in evading payment entirely. The Saudi Arabian Government thereupon forbade the vessel to leave Jedda, even to go to Port Sudan to take on water and supplies, until the dues had been paid, and the Chinese Consul's efforts to effect the ship's release failed entirely. The master's plight was not eased by the refusal of those who had chartered the ship to meet the fees the agent demanded after his unexpected appointment to act on her behalf. Eventually the matter was settled, but only after long delays.

21. The case of the second vessel, the *Cristobel*, was more serious in its consequences and more flagrant in that some at least of the pilgrims she carried appeared to be quite innocent victims of the organisers of the voyage. As early as April 1949 one Senator Pendatun had been sent full information on the pilgrimage and the warning that each pilgrim should bring with him not less than \$260, information which he claimed, however, did not in fact reach him. Senator Pendatun claimed that his fellow organisers asked him to arrange the voyage at short notice and that he was forced by political considerations to do so. He therefore purchased a ship in Hong Kong, intending to resell the vessel after the pilgrimage and thereby organise the latter at a lower cost than would have been possible if high charter fees had been in question. The purchase was made in part on credit and Pendatun personally was indebted to the previous owners, who still held title to the ship, by some 200,000 Philippine pesos. The other organisers were supposed to be responsible for collecting the fares and dues, which they turned over to him. Pendatun claimed that the amount collected and turned over to him was far short of requirements whereas his fellow organisers and the pilgrims themselves maintained that an adequate sum had been given him specifically for payments of dues. Pendatun informed the United States Embassy confidentially that he and the other organisers had expected that, faced with a *fait accompli*, the Saudi Arabian Government

would waive the balance of the dues—he evidently over-estimated the religious and under-estimated the pecuniary factor in the Saudi Arabian Government's attitude—and added that he had allowed the vessel to sail even though not all the passages had been paid for because the season for the pilgrimage and the mundane approach of the elections alike had been pressing on him. He had hoped that the outstanding fares would be collected either *en route* or on return to the Philippines. The fact that illegal passengers swelled the total of passengers from the 1,283 shown on the passenger list to 1,816—perhaps an underestimate—counted by the Saudi authorities, did not help matters.

22. It is unnecessary to go into further detail, since the ship and the surviving passengers were eventually freed after protracted negotiations. The good offices of the United States Ambassador were invoked to the full and some guarantee was at length extracted from the organisers and the Philippine Government jointly after such devices as selling the ship to clear expenses—impossible in the event because of Pendatun's doubtful title to it—had been attempted without result. This, however, was not till March, over four months after the pilgrimage, and the unfortunate pilgrims had by then had to endure almost every horror the pilgrimage can offer those who perform it, and for which some exacted partial revenge by passing counterfeit dollar notes and lead twenty-dollar "gold" pieces to the local merchants. The detention of the ship meant that nearly all the pilgrims, irrespective of whether they had arrived with enough money for the voyage, became destitute; deficiency diseases, notably beri-beri, weakened them still further in their half-starved condition and they were an easy prey to and proportionately by far the most numerous victims of the virulent smallpox which reached epidemic proportions in December. Faced with the smallpox the Saudi Arabian Government merely sent the Filipino victims to the quarantine island, where they had no food, little water (especially after the condenser broke down), little bedding and no medical attention. The great majority of these on the islands—some had evaded being sent there and remained in Jeddah—might have died had the British health expert employed by the Saudi Arabian Government, after consultation with the United States Ambassador, not threatened the Saudi Arabian Government that if something were not done he would

cause relief to be brought in from abroad; he then obtained complete executive and administrative authority to deal with the epidemic and to obtain the necessary supplies and, so far as possible, attendants for the sick pilgrims. At least 200 of the pilgrims must have died on the islands and ashore and it has been reported that even after the epidemic had been ended some 200 more died before the ship reached the Philippines on her return. Dr. Corkill, the health adviser mentioned, has shown conclusively in his report on the epidemic that the extent to which the pilgrims were affected depended very largely on the regions from which they came, in some of which vaccination had been carried out scrupulously. The responsibility of the organisers for the whole sorry affair shows too that the pre-collection of dues, return fares, and deposits against destitution, obligatory in the case of British and Netherlands-protected pilgrims, and pilgrims leaving from ports under British and Dutch control, is vital if hardship and even tragedies of this kind are to be avoided. The responsibility is, moreover, that of Governments, because, whatever the disgust of returning pilgrims, experience shows that conditions there are no deterrent to the pilgrims of future years, to whom the pilgrimage is worth so much in religious satisfaction and personal prestige.

Political

23. Political activity, with the exception of that of the Indonesians, was negligible. A notable pilgrim this year was the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, but all reports suggest that while he was given his full due as a Muslim dignitary and received by the King and members of the Government he was under constant supervision and was unable to engage in open political activity. A certain amount of propaganda by Pakistanis against India was reported but this was given no overt sanction by the Saudi Arabian Government. At one stage it was suggested that a Muslim international conference might be held in the Hejaz during the pilgrimage season, but this came to nothing because, consistently with the Saudi Arabian Government's continued opposition to political intrigue or propaganda at the Holy Places, the King refused to allow it.

24. Indonesians continued to receive the preferential treatment which they were allowed in the two previous pilgrimages, though, as they had already gained the

recognition of the Saudi Arabian Government and were in certain sight of their goal, their activity was celebration rather than propaganda.

25. Though despite earlier statements to the British Chargé d'Affaires by the Deputy Minister of Finance that none would be allowed to come, some Bokharis from the U.S.S.R. arrived on pilgrimage, no Communist activity was reported.

26. Considerable numbers of Indian and Pakistani pilgrims were repatriated at their Government's expense in the months following the pilgrimage, and varying numbers of other pilgrims also. No pilgrims for whom His Majesty's Embassy were responsible became charges on public funds: the prepayment of return passages guaranteed the latter, and the difficulties of pilgrims who ran out of money were eased by the refund of their deposits against repatriation expenses.

Appendix A

Two statements were issued by the Saudi Arabian Department of Pilgrimage Affairs detailing the pilgrims who arrived from abroad for the 1949 Pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina. The former gave the total as 91,879 and the latter as 99,069 made up from the following:—

North Africa, 2,347; Sudan, 4,270;
Aden, 176; Hadhramaut, 1,796; Kuwait,

(¹) Limit of 20,000 declared by the Egyptian Government.
(²) Greatly underestimated.

55; Bahrein, 56; Qatar, 30; Shingit, 42; Nigeria, 1,570; Malaya, 4,086; Cape and Zanzibar, 675; Somaliland, Eritrea and Ethiopia, 143; India, 15,400; Pakistan, 14,600; Egypt, 21,260(¹); Syria, 2,360; Lebanon, 995; Iraq, 889; Yeman, 1,650; Senegal, 694; Jordan, 79; Palestine, 132; Indonesia, 12,378; Philippines, 436(²); Chinese, 139; Persia, 1,660; Turkey, 6,380; Bokhara, 873; Afghanistan, 349.

This summary is inaccurate both in detail and classification. The North African included pilgrims from Spanish Morocco and Cyrenaica as well as French North Africa, and pilgrims from many territories around the Indian Ocean and in West Africa are included in the main headings. For purposes of comparison the total in 1948 was officially stated to have been 97,180.

Many Filipinos and pilgrims who arrived overland from the States bordering Saudi Arabia, as well as the unknown number of those who avoided payment of dues and recording, must be added to the total, and it must be borne in mind that there are considerable communities of Indians, Sudanis, and others who remain in this country for the main purpose of attending the pilgrimage for two or more consecutive years.

ES 1782/33

No. 7

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEJAZ, 1950

Mr. Trott to Mr. Bevin. (Received 6th November)

(No. 140. Confidential) Jeddah,
Sir, 24th October, 1950.

I have the honour to report that the 1950 Pilgrimage to this country which is now concluding has not been marked by any outstanding special incident.

2. There has, so far at least, been no major epidemic such as the small-pox outbreak which marred the concluding stages of last year's Pilgrimage. There was a scare about cholera as soon as the beginning of the Indian pilgrimage was announced. The Saudi Arabian Government seem to be obsessed with the cholera danger, although they have little notion as to the precautions required. Consequently, when the Egyptian Consulate at Bombay telegraphed to the

Saudi Arabian Government at the beginning of August that a number of suspected cases of cholera had occurred in Bombay province, the Saudi Arabian Government resorted to drastic measures. These measures were in excess of the requirements of the International Sanitary Convention and placed the burden of action in other hands than the Saudi Arabian Government's. It was decreed that all pilgrims from India and Pakistan should bring with them stool test certificates and that those ships which had already left should call at Kamaran for stool tests to their passengers. This task would have been physically impossible either for Indian and Pakistan medical services or the authorities at

Kamaran owing to the lack of notice. It is believed that this drastic measure, calling for the clinical examination of many thousands at short notice, was the result of advice from the somewhat inexperienced Syrian medical advisers, who have so much influence with the Saudi Arabian Government.

3. In practice it proved impracticable to enforce this measure. The Indian Government received the order only three days before the departure of their first pilgrim ship and Kamaran Island did not possess the resources to examine more than a relatively small number of cases of suspected cholera as required by the International Sanitary Convention. Moreover, neither the Indian nor the Pakistan Governments were prepared to agree to a measure which was not required of them by the International Sanitary Convention and which they regarded as a reflection on their medical services. The Pakistan Government quickly secured exemption from this measure for pilgrims from West Pakistan. When the first Indian pilgrim ship arrived—including one vessel, the *Mozafferi*, sailing under British colours—carrying clean bills of health from Kamaran, but no stool certificates, the ships were detained by the Saudi Arabian Government and the pilgrims were refused permission to land. After 48 hours of representations from many quarters, during which the Indian pilgrims threatened to go on hunger strike, the pilgrims were allowed to land and nothing more was heard of stool certificates. This was the result of strong protests from the Indian Consul and myself and from the action of Lt.-Col. Manifold, R.A.M.C., pathological adviser to the Saudi Arabian Government. Lt.-Col. Manifold had been flown back prematurely from his United Kingdom leave shortly after the outbreak of the cholera scare. He advised the Saudi Arabian Government that they were only exposing themselves to ridicule by their attitude, undertook to examine every Indian and East Pakistan pilgrim personally and said he was willing to take full responsibility.

4. Other difficulties with the Saudi Arabian Government also arose over the air pilgrimage. An ingenious drafter had inserted a clause in the air pilgrimage regulations which endeavoured to secure unlimited landing rights for Saudi Arabian aircraft in the territory of, or the territory of the possessions of, any country whose aircraft brought pilgrims into Saudi Arabia. Reservations regarding this regulation were made by my French colleague and myself, and the Saudi

Arabian Government did not insist on their interpretation of reciprocal rights. There is little doubt, however, that when Saudi Arabian Airlines feel in a stronger position to engage in international traffic, more ambitious attempts in this direction will be made.

5. Jedda airport was this year the scene of considerable activity, and the Saudi Arabian Government estimates that 13,659 pilgrims arrived by air compared with 83,936 by sea. The amenities for the handling of passengers remain at the level of a third-rate provincial airport in one of the more backward European countries. The result was that the airport buildings swarmed with large numbers of pilgrims for whom there was no waiting accommodation, insufficient conveniences, and insufficient room to prepare their meals or eat them. The result was that the area was rapidly covered with garbage and sewage and became a breeding-ground for millions of flies.

6. The facilities for handling aircraft were little better. A first-class set of night landing lights has been installed since last year's pilgrimage, but for the greater part of the incoming pilgrimage there was no attempt at ground control. Since the density of incoming aircraft was at times equivalent to half the density of landing at the peak of the Berlin airlift the danger can be imagined. Several accidents were narrowly averted more by good luck than anything else. Towards the end of the Pilgrimage the ground control apparatus was manned unofficially for a while by off-duty British and American crew members of Aden Airways and Saudi Arabian Airlines, but Jedda still does not boast any official ground control system, apart from one Saudi Arabian official, who gives aircraft permission to take off from an office where he is unable to see whether the airfield is clear or not.

7. A feature of this year's Pilgrimage was the arrival for the first time of a shipload of Spanish pilgrims. The ship, *Plus Ultra*, arrived immediately before the Pilgrimage with a load of about 400 officially-sponsored pilgrims from Spanish Morocco, together with some pilgrims of the gate-crasher class, picked up on the way; and also some merchandise. These were hurried through the pilgrimage ceremonies and shipped back again as rapidly as possible. The *Plus Ultra* was among the first to go away of the ships which waited at Jedda harbour over Pilgrimage week. The pilgrims were shepherded in and out of the Holy Land by Maestro de Leon, a wizened little Spanish

diplomat from Alexandria. Maestro de Leon left with the *Plus Ultra*, saying that he would be back at Jedda in November and has since paid another short visit to Jedda. It remains to be seen which is the stronger, General Franco's will to woo the Arab States or his Chargé d'Affaires's dislike of the primitive conditions in Saudi Arabia.

8. Another event which took place for the first time this year was the visit to Jedda of a Pakistani warship. H.M.P.S. *Sind* arrived at Jedda on 19th September, and left on 10th October. A large number of the members of the crew performed the Pilgrimage and subsequently visited Medina by specially chartered plane. The Pakistani Minister to Saudi Arabia, Mr. Abdus Sattar Saith, has made one of his rare visits from Cairo; and the Pakistani Ambassador to Persia, Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan, was also present at the Pilgrimage, together with a high level personality from Pakistan, Sir Abdurrahman. I attach as Appendix A⁽¹⁾ a list of distinguished visitors to Saudi Arabia who performed the Pilgrimage.

9. Road transport this year was somewhat better organised than usual, except for local transport in Mecca, which was, as usual, chaotic. It is reported that the improvement resulted from the arrest by Amir Abdullah Faisal, son of the Amir Faisal, Viceroy of the Hejaz, of six members of the transport monopoly who were not carrying out their duties properly. The Jedda-Mecca road, badly built in the first place, was, as usual, in need of repair this year. By dint, however, of last-minute work by the United States firm of Bechtels Incorporated the road was repaired after a fashion and widened up to the pillars marking the beginning of Holy territory, but one result was that the drivers were even more reckless than before and there was a corresponding increase in the number of accidents.

10. The usual indecision occurred as to the date on which Pilgrimage Day should occur. This was eventually fixed for Saturday, 9th September, thus narrowly avoiding a Friday Pilgrimage, which would have conferred sevenfold merit on this year's pilgrims, but might have reduced the number of pilgrims in forthcoming years.

11. The number of deaths during Pilgrimage week was relatively small. Twenty deaths were reported at Arafat and 29 at Muna and these seem to have been

due to the usual causes of old age, over-exposure, weakness and exhaustion. No epidemic of infectious disease was reported. A sudden storm broke out during the ceremonies at Arafat, causing a large number of tents to collapse and wounding many pilgrims (including Mohammed Suroor). The Saudi Arabian Government report that 500,000 persons were present at the Arafat ceremonies; of these 83,936 arrived by sea, 13,659 by air, 1,247 by land via Medina, 4,000 by land via Riyadh, and 5,587 by land from Iraq and Kuwait. The remainder were from Saudi Arabia. The Persian contingent arrived very late, mostly by air: the number of Persians exceeded 2,000.

12. After Pilgrimage week was over the usual helter-skelter to get out of the Hejaz took place. Two distinguished visitors from Malaya, the Hon. Tuan Shaikh Ahmed, non-official member of the Federal Legislative and Executive Assemblies, and Abdul Malek bin Yussef, ex-Premier of Negri Sembilan, called at the Embassy for aid in facilitating their early return. Both were indignant at the treatment of pilgrims by the Saudi authorities and said that when they returned to Malaya they would work for the banning of the aged or unhealthy from attendance at the Pilgrimage, though by doing so they would make themselves personally unpopular.

13. The Pilgrimage was headed by Amir Saud, the Crown Prince, acting on behalf of his father, who, presumably, felt that the effort would be too much. Amir Saud appears to be taking his duties of State most seriously and during his short stay at Jedda after the Pilgrimage held an audience for the Diplomatic Corps and later a banquet at which he was at pains to make light conversation and display social graciousness.

14. Amir Faisal, Viceroy of the Hejaz, and his son, Amir Abdullah Faisal, were in charge of arrangements for the Pilgrimage at Mecca.

15. I am sending copy of this despatch to the Head of the British Middle East Office. I shall be submitting a more detailed report on the Pilgrimage at a later date when the customary statistics are available, but in the meantime you may wish to circulate this preliminary account to the usual recipients of Jedda Pilgrimage Reports.

I have, &c.

(For the Ambassador),

DAVID SCOTT FOX.

⁽¹⁾ Not printed.

SAUDI ARABIA: HEADS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Mr. Trott to Mr. Attlee. (Received 10th October)

(No. 118. Confidential.) *Jedda*,
Sir, 20th September, 1950.

With reference to Jedda despatch No. 126 of 1st July, 1949, I have the honour to transmit to you my annual report on the heads of foreign missions in Jedda.

2. I have re-written all of the articles and have endeavoured to avoid using the details of previous reports which I presume are available in print to anyone who wishes to consult them.

I have, &c.
A. C. TROTT.

Enclosure in No. 8

Afghanistan

The fanatical Seyyid Muhammad Sadaq al Mujaddedi, accredited to Cairo as well as to Jedda, has only been seen here once during the past year. He accompanied the King of Afghanistan on the latter's visit to this country in March last, and went with His Majesty to Riyadh, returning thereafter to Cairo. He has no staff at Jedda.

Argentina

Dr. Guffanti left Jedda in October 1949, without any farewell calls and though the Legation is still said to be in charge of an attaché, M. Carlos Alberto Stegmann, whose title is "dépositaire des archives," he is seldom seen and is believed to reside in Cairo. His chief claim to fame is his expert playing on the guitar.

China

I have seen and heard nothing of Mr. S. M. Wang, the Chinese Consul, this year, and doubt whether he will leave Cairo for Jedda this pilgrimage as, if there are any Chinese pilgrims, they will be more or less Communists.

Egypt

Dr. Abdul Wahhab Azzam Bey left here on 7th August, 1950, having been transferred to Pakistan. I found him an excellent and communicative colleague and I much regret his departure, as I think the Saudis do too. He was looked upon by them as a very learned man and he surprised them by knowing a great deal more about their country than they did.

Ethiopia

I have heard nothing about the Ethiopian Minister during the past year. As far as I know he has stayed in Cairo. His name is Taffassa Habt Mikael. A Saudi national named Mohammed Gabil was appointed honorary Consul late in 1949.

France

M. Georges Gueyraud, aided by his vivacious wife, has given a number of agreeable parties in the new house which they have insisted on occupying instead of the old Jedda house beloved of M. Maigret. He also found time to visit the Yemen for quite a long time last spring. He is a hypochondriac,

always imagining he is ill, with the result that he has a permanently morose and depressed appearance. His staff find him mean and niggardly, but, as the whole staff are just being changed, perhaps things will go more smoothly in future.

The Chargé d'Affaires, Marquis René Jehan de Johannis, seems able and most co-operative but cannot speak English. He is an Arabist but confesses himself bewildered for the moment by Saudi Arabic. It is probable that Johannis will get on better with his chief than the previous counsellor, Legrain, did. The latter, a D.S.O. and a prominent member of the Free French Forces, was aggressively pro-British, whereas his chief was either a Vichyite or at best a trimmer during the war.

Indonesia

Dr. Mohammed Rashidi (or, as he spells it, Rasjidi) presented his letters as the first Minister of the Republic of the United States of Indonesia on 26th April last. He seems a quiet and agreeable little man, perhaps rather nervous. The doctor who was previously at the Netherlands Legation has been changed; in fact, Rashidi seems to have started with a brand-new staff, a fact which might explain his air of slight bewilderment. He left for Cairo in August, leaving in charge a secretary named Imron Rosjadi, pronounced something like Rishadi. The Minister returned for the pilgrimage, the arrangements for which seem to be proceeding normally at present.

Iraq

Al-Ushaikr left here late in 1949 and was succeeded by Seyyid Daud Mahmud Ramiz, who says he is a political attaché and Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim*. This young man seems very agreeable but to have little to do except routine work. He has moved his Legation's premises to a new building of fantastic design, coloured a violent yellow.

Italy

A new Minister named Ugo Turcato, arrived in November 1949, and is also accredited to the Yemen, where he spent a few weeks in the spring of this year. He has previously served in Nairobi, where he much enjoyed himself. He and his plump and cheerful wife have hitherto managed to stay at Jedda throughout the summer: the only head of post (except me) to do so. He strikes one as a solid and reasonable man. His knowledge of English is not too good, and he seems to know little about the East.

Jordan

Shaikh Fahmy Hashim has proved to be a snake. He seems to have been got at by some zealous anti-Abdullah Saudis and to have turned against his own monarch with surprising suddenness and inexplicable treachery. Having sold the Government furniture locally for his own pocket, he presented the codes to the Saudi Government and retired to Egypt, whence he has been trying to obtain a pension from his own Government. The latter have been trying to hush up the affair by pretending that he is mad. He is succeeded by a consul and first secretary called Ali Bey Seyyido (previously Kurdi), a learned and agreeable little man, educated partly in Jerusalem and speaking English.

Lebanon

The Minister, Sami el Khoury, paid one short visit to Jedda during the winter, staying a couple of days.

Assad el Assad, having been here for three years, has been transferred and his place has just been taken by a young man named Bulind Beydoun, a Beyrouthi of mixed Arab and Turkish parentage who speaks French and a little English. He likes dancing and seems presentable: he arrived on 14th August, but apparently is not staying.

Netherlands

The Netherlands Legation has come to an end. Dr. Dingemans withdrew in May, leaving the head of the Netherlands Trading Society as honorary Netherlands Consul. Dr. Dingemans handed over to Hadji Mohammed Rashidi, who became the first Indonesian Minister at Jedda.

Persia

A full Minister has arrived, named Abdul Hussein Isfandiary, a regular foreign service official who has previously served in Jerusalem, and who belongs to the well-known Persian family of that name. He did not stay long but is expected back during the pilgrimage. He was hampered at first by no staff, no office, and in fact no budget, but these difficulties have evidently been surmounted. A Chargé d'Affaires named Muhammed Sa'adat acted here for a time but has now left: there is of course hardly anything for such an official to do here except at pilgrimage time. Isfandiary, in spite of his morose and forbidding appearance, settled down quite well and seemed to command the respect of the local officials, whose Arabic, being of the colloquial kind, left him profoundly shocked.

Spain

Sr. Maestro de León arrived in Jedda a few days ago and circulated foreign missions with the news that he was appointed Spanish Chargé d'Affaires. I cannot imagine what duties he will have at this post, where I know of no Spaniards and no Spanish interests. He was at one time a doctor and has a weather-beaten appearance which suggests that he has seen trouble in the Civil War. He seems to be

part of the Spanish Government's policy of courting the Arab States, and to be more especially charged with looking after a ship-load of pilgrims from Ceuta.

Syria

Muhsin al Barazi having been assassinated (a sad event which affected King Bin Saud very much as he had strongly advised the reluctant Barazi to accept to work with Zaim, and so in some degree the King felt responsible for his tragic end), a new Minister named Jawad Bey al Murabit has been appointed and arrived on 22nd February. He is a man of little or no previous experience of diplomacy, his previous career having been in the police. He speaks a curious kind of French and is said to be a very devout Moslem. Sitting on a collapsible chair having caused him a broken finger, he retired to Beirut in June but he has now returned and is trying to persuade the Saudi Government to pay the second instalment of the Syrian loan: a task which, I fear, would be beyond the capacity of the most experienced diplomat.

Turkey

An Angora journalist and politician named A. Tiritoglu, came here last autumn as Minister but did not remain long after the change of Government resulting from the elections of last May. He seemed to have little to do and was continually yearning to construct a sort of modern Turkish Lido, where he and his friends could sip lemonade on the shore during their daily walks. The Legation is now in charge of a Chargé d'Affaires named Irfan Karasar, who speaks French and considers himself a Don Juan, but a skin disease which gives him a very blotched appearance does not fit the part.

United States

Mr. James Rives Childs left this post on 21st July last, and the *agrément* of his successor, Mr. Raymond Arthur Hare, has been obtained. He is expected here in October. Meanwhile, Mr. Heyward Hill carries on with practically no staff as Chargé d'Affaires. He is not interested in the East and longs to get away from it. He seems very doubtful about the propriety of giving things to this country (as in the Fourth Point Scheme) as he considers the Saudis incorrigibly backward and hopeless.